SATURDAY SPECIAL / G1
Welcome to universe
of Sanjaya, the unexpected key factor in this year's 'Idol'

BUSINESS / B1
GSIS sells 6%
stake in SMC for P14B

WORLD / A22
World Bank chief under fire
for promotion, pay hike of his staffer/girlfriend

NEWS / A2
Court orders Mark
Jimenez to stay away from wife and son

Have a heart, heart doc asks GMA son, 'Mikey'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE GAMBLER, DUDE'S heart is breaking, but it's not a medication.

Dr. Jose Maximiliano of the St. Luke's Medical Center—where President Macapagal-Arroyo's

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, April 14, 2007 | 44 | 11 sections | Vol. 31 / No. 123 | P18 | website: www.inquirer.net

Manny 10-to-1 favorite vs undefeated Mexican

By Ray Cuenca

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—AS IT GOT TIME nears, the odds continue to swell in favor of Filipino ring superstar Manny Pacquiao.

When started as 6-1 odds last week, climbed to 10-1 Thursday. Friday, bookmaker and personality extraordinaire Lenny Pacquiao's place

Mike A still on dialysis

Doctors say recovery slowed down

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE RECOVERY OF JOSE Miguel "Mike" Arroyo appears to have slowed down, with his doctors seeing no improvement in his kidneys despite three days of continuous dialysis and saying he has to be bombarded with antibiotics to avert infection.

Arroyo's main attending physician, Juliet Bugay-Gonzales, yesterday said the medical team could not yet take him off the respirator (as had been planned in the past few days), and that he had to be kept sedated.

"In a way, yes, there's slowing down," Gonzales said in her briefing yesterday on Arroyo's condition three days after his 18-hour open-heart surgery.

"[Recovery] is slowed down because we are concerned yesterday ... we want to wean him from the ventilator. But [the condition] is not yet favorable for weaning," she said.

Since Wednesday, Macapagal-Arroyo's husband went under the knife for a high-risk aneurysm-clipping and triple bypass on Monday night at the St. Luke's Medical Center, the Palace has yet to release a photo or video of him recuperating at the hospital. Doctors said the Cardiovascular Recovery Room has been closed off limits to outsiders, and the Palace officials or friends who saw him in the past days said he was asleep at the time.

"He is off the critical period, but his condition is still guarded. We are still managing him critically and we monitor him closely because the situation is very dynamic," Carreiners said.

She said Arroyo's chances of recovery remained within the 50 percent earlier given him. "It's still the same but ... anything can change. That is why we are very vigilant. That is why we are taking one step ahead of all the problems as we

PRESIDENT ARROYO drops in prayer for the healing of husband Mike Arroyo at the St. Jude's Church beside Malacañang, is interrupted by a stray cat while also catches the attention of Vice President Noli de Castro who's at Mike along with Cabinet officials. It's a miracle, St. Jude parish priest Fr. Joseph Bo-ku, SVD, tells a parishioner. Ms. Arroyo (copyright). Later in a statement she says she now believes what Christ is here: I need you cured by the Lord from mortal danger. Words reach out to Ms Arroyo as she's prepared over by Fr Lo (right).

St. Luke's team cited for 'job well done'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE MEDICAL TEAM THAT handled the aneurysm-clipping and triple bypass that saved the life of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband has earned praise not only from members of the First Family and their powerful friends but also from a leading cardiovascular surgeon in the United States.

The operation was deemed high-risk, with a very high chance of fatality and a very low percentage of full recovery.

Dr. Alan Yap, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's physician based in San Francisco, praised the team led by head surgeon Dr. Rommel Encinas for "a job well done."

Yap himself did not speak with reporters, but Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes, Arroyo's main attending physician, and Dr. Jesus Cuasay, medical director of the St. Luke's Medical Center, cited at a

FULL STORY A2

Survey: 9 out of 10 Pinoys support birth control

ALMOST 90 OF FILIPINOS WANT PUBlicly funded birth control despite strong opposition from the influential Roman Catholic Church, an independent survey showed yesterday.

The Pulse Asia survey of 1,800 adults found 89 percent wanted the government to pay for family planning measures including sterilization, intrauterine devices, condoms, lipstan and vasectomies.

Almost all Filipinos surveyed (92 percent) described family planning as important, with 9 percent undecided and only 2 percent saying it was unimportant.

Family planning has been a touchy issue among candidates, leaders of the Catholic Church, the religion of 81 percent of the population, southern Islamic council.

As of 2000, there were over 80 million Roman Catholics in the country.

The country's population is projected to hit 88.7 million this year, according to data from the National Statistics Office.

According to the survey, 76 percent said candidates in midterm elections next month should address family planning concerns, with 71 percent pledging to support those talking to fund such measures.

The March 2007 Uni ng Sapot Survey on Family Planning was carried out between 9th, 28 and March 3.

The Order Asia survey asked how important it was for a candidate in this year's elections to include family planning in his/her plan of action and found that 74 percent of respondents in Metro Manila said it was "important." The rest of Luzon—some 65 per

SURVEY, A10

Monsod urges probe of 'sale' of party-lists

By Nikko Dizon
and Christian V. Esguerra

A FORMER CHAIR OF THE COMMIssion on Elections does not discount the possibility that party-list accreditations and nominations are indeed being sold and urged the poll body to investigate the allegations.

But lawyer Christian Monsod said the party-list system, which was introduced more than a decade ago, might itself need to be reviewed as it has been "hos-

MONSOD, A17

Satur says he's maintaining high profile for security, political reasons

By Lila B. Saavedra

BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST REP SATUR Ocampo maintains a high profile because it keeps him safe and boosts public awareness about the party-list system.

Ocampo, whose party-list group scored reelection in the May 14 polls, said he was deliberately making himself visible so no harm would come to him.

The Bayan Muna representative said the government seemed intent on keeping him in detention by lifting amended murder charges against him.

"With this atmosphere, I cannot feel secure, but I don't feel constrained by the situation. I know it could be worse," Ocampo said the bayanin adinat Thursday evening. "So I maintain a high profile. I have to be visible."

He said that if he remained on the sidelines, something might happen to him that would be made to look like an accident.

He added that the government seemed bent on driving him to go underground. However, this was something he would not do.

"Our attitude is—we don't want to give them reasons to say that we went underground," Ocampo said, adding that he had already lodged a protest to seek asylum in another country.

Ocampo said he did not want to run away or go into hiding because the allegations against him are baseless. He stressed that he will lead a mandate to serve.

Ocampo was charged with murder for his alleged involvement in the killing of suspected military spies in the Communist Party of the Philippines in the 1980s. He was arraigned on March 16.

But the Supreme Court ordered his release while it deliberated on his petition seeking the recall of his arrest warrant

SATURDAYS, A-3

Roco trapped in elevator on Friday the 13th

By Norman Quindoy
and Michael Lim Ubac

SEE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN FRIDAY THE 13th, but the superstition may have caught up with the UNOpposer in the latest joke that's making the rounds among senatorial candidates.

Sonia Roco, a Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate, found herself trapped inside an overloaded elevator of the Manila Bank head office in Makati as a fire panic ensued yesterday.

Roco was on her way to a scheduled news conference at the 10 headquarters on the building's third floor when the event, which was said to be running 30 minutes late, panicked when the elevator stopped.

There were no real shouts an hour later by firemen from the Makati fire department.

"I don't believe in Friday the 13th. I didn't even realize that it was Friday the 13th until my sister told me that it was," Roco said in an interview.

"I suppose it just so happened that it was Friday the 13th," she said.

A Friday occurring on the 13th day of any month is considered to be a day of

ROCO, A-3

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MEGALOTTO 6/45 1 9 25 27 42 43
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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Absentee voting starts today

Court orders Mark Jimenez to stay away from wife, son

By Kristine L. Alave

A MALOLOS FAMILY COURT JUDGE has ordered businessman Mark Jimenez to stop seeing or contacting his wife Caroline Candelaria Jimenez and their youngest son although she told the court that he has been abusing her for years and that he recently threatened to kill her.

The former Manila congressman is barred from coming within 200 meters of his wife, their 13-year-old son and her immediate relatives by the decision issued yesterday by Executive Judge Amelia Bautista.

Caroline filed a petition for a temporary protection order against Jimenez last April 11.

Bautista also stopped Jimenez from "harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting, or communicating" with Caroline and her family.

The judge also ordered Jimenez to undergo professional counseling for anger management, alcohol and substance abuse and other intervention "to no avail evidence."

Reached at his penthouse apartment at the Forbes Condominium in Fort Bonifacio, Jimenez said he would not contest the court order but said the case against him would not prosper.

He said he did not mind keeping his distance from his wife who he said was taking some medication.

Jimenez brushed aside his wife's allegation that he was psychologically ill.

He said Caroline was the "love of his life" and hoped she would attain the peace and happiness she was seeking.

In her petition, Caroline said her husband had been subjecting her to physical, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse for the past 20 years.

She said Jimenez exerted virtually absolute control over her.

Caroline said Jimenez tried to "brainwash" their son to hate her and that he often abused her in front of the 13-year-old.

Caroline said her son's teachers had told her that he has not been doing well in school and that he seemed to be always upset.

This was what compelled her to leave Jimenez, she said.

Jimenez was served the court order at his Forbes residence at about noon yesterday by court officials and a representative from Respicio Kapunan's office.

Lawyer RJ Nellanie said Jimenez was entitled to that. But there he refused to let them leave and forced them to watch a video about his Wing ng Langit foundation. Jimenez also threatened them, Nellanie said.

"If this goes out, you know what will happen to you," Jimenez said to Filipinos, according to Nellanie.

By Cynthia D. Balana

MORE THAN HALF-A-MILLION Filipinos abroad will cast their ballots starting today for the May 14 elections in the second Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) exercise since 2004, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

Foreign Undersecretary for Special Concerns Walter Dragon said a total of 504,110 absentee voters are registered in 116 countries involving 88 foreign posts, compared to 282,446 registrants in the 2004 elections.

Most of the registrants come from Saudi Arabia with 148,800, followed by Hong Kong with 94,160, United Arab Emirates, 55,384, and Singapore, 26,655.

Dragon said 174,831 voters from 85 countries would vote by mail while 329,279 voters would cast their ballots personally at the Philippine embassies and consulates.

Absentee voting will end at 3 p.m. (Philippine time) on May 14.

Under the Overseas Absentee Voting Law, registered voters will only be allowed to participate in elections for senators and party-list groups.

All systems go

Dragon said all systems were in place for the absentee voting and that all foreign service personnel were under strict orders to maintain impartiality at all times.

Of the new registrants, 93,732 registered abroad, 39,210 registered at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and 47,469 registered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport while preparing for their flights to foreign destinations.

The DFA hopes for a higher turnout in this year's elections. In the 2004 elections, Dragon said the turnout was only 68 percent.

"We aspired to the greatest spirit of our ballot, million Overseas Filipino Voting (OAV) registrants to exercise their right to vote. The voice cast by our compatriots overseas can make a real difference in the forthcoming elections," Dragon said.

The Commission on Elections said that of the overseas absentee voters, 151,760 are in Asia Pacific countries, 218,260 in the Middle East, 27,268 in North and South America, and 80,446 in Europe.

A total of 38,806 Filipino seafarers in ocean-going vessels have registered as overseas absentee voters.

But former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod finds the absentee voting process defective.

Voting by e-mail

Monsod told reporters that in 1995, the poll body had proposed to Congress that the OAV be done completely by mail so that OFWs won't have to travel anywhere to Philippine diplomatic posts to cast their votes.

"It wasn't followed and instead we have the law that we have now," he said. "All successful absentee voting in the world is based on mail. It is a proven system all over the world."

In voting by mail, the Comelec sends through postage the absentee voter's mail packets, complete with self-stamped envelopes, which they would have to mail back to the Philippines.

Many registered absentee voters failed to vote in 2004 because they had to travel a long way to get to the embassies and consulates to personally vote.

In Hong Kong, the post that registered the highest voter turnout in the first overseas absentee voting (OAV) in 2004, Filipino labor diaspora leaders yesterday are wooing voters today.

The United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL), the biggest network of community organizations here, said it would be difficult to attain the 64 percent voter turnout registered in 2004.

UNIFIL secretary general Grace Villanueva said they have been trying to convince people to vote against the allegations of cheating in 2004. With reports from Nikko Dizon and Marielle S. Rivera, contributor

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In video, Erap warns GO of 'vote-snatching'

ESTRADA

[illegible] Jr. 1001 City...Former President Joseph Estrada has warned that the administration may resort to vote-snatching to maintain its control over Congress.

In a video message aired during the rally of the Genuine Opposition here on Wednesday evening, Estrada said the administration would do anything to ensure that its bets won the mid-term elections.

Surrounded at the Villa Garcia to the Villa Garcia" ceremony where the opposition claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo asked former Commission on Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the results of the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in 2004.

He stressed his denial concerning fraud in that election in which he faced popular actor Fernando Poe, Jr. for the presidency but she apologized to the voters for planting an election official at the height of the election.

"Let us not allow them to snatch our votes—the only right that is left to the Filipino masses," Estrada said.

Estrada said rightists would ensure that the administration would not be side-tracked.

"Let us preserve the interest of democracy of the Constitution and the rule of law," he said in the video, which ran for less than three minutes.

The former president, accused of plunder and under house arrest in Tanay, Rizal, also lashed out at the Arroyo government's "blatant corruption." He also said the Arroyo government was abusing human rights and beat down nothing to stay on the judicial killings.

Estrada urged the people to vote for change by sending all the GO candidates to the Senate.

"Huwag nating payagan na magpakatuloy ang mando ni administrasyon! (Never agree to hand over the Senate to the administration!)," he said. "I hope you will give them the support you have given me."

Estrada ended his message with the message: "Sumabay tayo kahit sa malapit (Vote our way against those at the seat of power)."

All GO candidates led by Sen. Nereo Acosta and Loren Legarda were seen at the rally considered as GO's second biggest in Mindanao. Grace C. Alfonso, Inquirer Mindanao

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Mike A still on respirator

HIGH WATCH: A TV cameraman stays off as he keeps vigil at the entrance of St. Luke's Medical Center for any developments on the delicate condition of Mike Arroyo. BOY SANTOS

GMA trip to China still on but cut to 12 hours

By John Liston Jacildone

DESPITE HER HUSBAND'S delicate condition, President Macapagal-Arroyo will push through with her official trip to China next week.

But the scheduled five-day trip will be cut to just 12 hours, Ambassador Sherwine Payoyo Jr., chief of presidential protocol, said yesterday.

Payoyo said Mr Arroyo would proceed to China's Hainan province to deliver the keynote address at the Boao Forum on April 21, and promptly return to be with her husband at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Anxious chair

"The President must be here by the first conference, but since the program is penciled and that's a commitment, [she] has decided that she will attend the Boao forum because she's the main speaker," Payoyo told reporters.

"Right now we're looking at about 12 hours [of absence], including travel time, which is about eight hours," he said.

At the Boao Forum, Mr Arroyo will talk about the development of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asean Regional Forum and regional security concerns.

She is the year's Asean chair, and hosted the regional grouping's recent summit in Cebu.

Reporters learned from Payoyo about the shortening of the President's trip to China an hour after her husband's main attending physician, Julio Togno Gonzales, announced that his recovery had slowed down. (See story on Page A1.)

Gonzales said the President could push through with her economic trip if she wanted to.

But when asked if she thought Mr Arroyo should be away from his husband for five days, she said: "I don't know. It depends on her."

Gonzales had earlier said she preferred Mr Arroyo to be constantly by her husband's sickbed to boost his recovery.

From page A1

hem. We're trying to assess everything."

Asked if Arroyo's recovery remained pegged at 10-14 days, Gonzales said: "It's still very hard to say at this point. We're still maximizing that when it comes to very difficult surgeries [like this], numbers are numbers and everything is possible."

Cause for concern

Gonzales admitted that the slow-than-expected recovery was a cause for concern.

"From the start we are really very concerned because we know that those events are possible," she said.

She also said heart surgeon Ales Tay, Arroyo's US-based physician who is here to monitor his condition, was aware of the latest developments because he was also at the hospital.

"Well, Dr. Tay said it is still expected naturally in this kind of condition. It is still within the timeframe," she said.

In her fifth medical bulletin on the President's husband, Gonzales said: "We opted to maintain him on ventilator support since there is still a need to give him a moderate concentration of oxygen because more fluid have to be mobilized out from the circulation through continuous renal replacement therapy, considering that the kidneys are still not adequately functioning—which is an expected but temporary state after this kind of surgery.

"At this time in the course of recovery, we are on the lookout for the possibility of small infection. Hence, we are adequately assessing him with wide-spectrum antibiotics.

"He is also being given prophylactic treatment to prevent pulmonary embolism, including bedside passive rehabilitation."

Continuously awake

Gonzales said the team had started to administer sustained food to Arroyo through a nasogastric tube. She said his gastro-intestinal tract was functioning well.

According to Gonzales, Arroyo is "continuously awake, but we still prefer that he be under sedation at this time to insure the respiratory his oxygen."

She said the team had prevented him from writing notes to his family, as he did after the weeks from the surgery.

"The heart is doing well, as are most of his organs not mentioned," she said.

But she said Arroyo's kidneys, which bore the brunt of the effects of surgery, had "not yet" improved even after continuous dialysis since the operation ended on Tuesday morning.

Asked how long the dialysis would continue, Gonzales said: "It's very hard to give you numbers. For those coming days he will still be on dialysis—renal support—until probably next week. How long it will be will still be on a day-to-day basis because we have to gear time by the kidneys to recover."

Really high-risk

Gonzales said that Arroyo was at a "really high" risk of infection because of the long surgery and the hospital surroundings having a setting for infection, and that the administration of antibiotics was meant to prevent the occurrence of infection.

"When I say 'occult infection,' it means we do not know, we cannot find, any possible source. We still want for that [infection] to develop," she said.

The team also debunked the planned removal of tubes from Arroyo's chest yesterday.

Gonzales also clarified that Arroyo's echocardiogram was "not the usual echo."

"That is for the pericardium, meaning [just] the coverage of the lugs," she said.

She denied reports that the President's husband had suffered cardiac arrest, declaring: "The more fact that I did not say it means it did not develop."

In solidarity

In a statement released yesterday by Malacañang, the President thanked those who had prayed for her husband, and described for the first time how she was holding until the family crisis.

"My family is in solidarity with the Filipino people who all know what it feels to have a loved one saved by the Lord from mortal danger," she said. "I am in solidarity with those who have gone through the same anticipation of sudden loss, and I ask for grace to persevere through the Almighty's grace."

The President has not publicly spoken about her husband's condition, and she is known to keep her emotions in check during moments of personal or official crisis.

"I am deeply grateful for the prayers of the people as are here in the mighty compassion of God. We shall continue to work hand in hand, families linked together, for the good of all, sharing and caring in times of need, gathering around a common spirit of ensuring the safety of our loved ones," she said, adding:

"To all those who joined their sympathies, thank you for having with us in our moments of trial and difficulty."

The President also thanked the AFMC doctors and medical staff "who ardently gave their all to help us in our life."

"I extend your professionalism, your excellence and faith," she said.

St. Jude

The President left the hospital for the second straight day yesterday to hear Mass at the St. Jude Church near Malacañang with her Cabinet and Palace employees and to visit the 2,000 families left homeless by the Black Saturday fire in Mandaluyong City.

She was back at the ALMC before 1 p.m.

St. Jude is known as the patron saint of the persons saints.

The parish priest, Fr. Joseph Ike Ira, SVD, assured the President in his homily saying her husband's survival was a miracle.

"I really believe that God blesses people who are so generous and charitable. It is through the hands of people like what you have done a miracle for the First Gentleman," Ira said.

He recalled how the parish had benefited from Arroyo's help, and said the latter was "precious in the eyes of God."

Ira's pronouncement words drew a smile and nods from the President.

She was accompanied by Vice President Noli de Castro, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, and Barangays Ignacio Bunye, Alberto Romulo, Raul Gonzalez, Angelo Reyes, Ronaldo Zamora, Rodolfo Aladino Jr., Peter Favila and Francisco Duque.

Also present were Presidential Political Adviser Gilbert Chardin, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Joseph Lagonera, presidential adviser Ed Panlilio, presidential protocol chief Marinaes Payoyo Jr., Lakas spokesperson Raffaelie Arroyo and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Healing petals

After the Mass, the priest gave the President a scarf for her husband, a bottle of healing oil, and healing petals.

The miraculous petals were supposed to show images of the Virgin Mary and other religious and saints' depictions to the other officials and most of those who attended the Mass.

After they were pressed to her chest, the President's petals showed images of the Virgin Mary.

"The fact it was a blessing, and that her prayers are answered, Remedios, she's a devotee of the Blessed Virgin, so it's necessary that the images which appeared on her petals are all those of the Virgin Mary," Remonde said.

He said the President's younger son Dato brought the flowers which were then taken to Senior Father Carmelo and blessed by Locsin the Mass.

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 13 issue, a Page A19 Arroyo "the Boston story—'Anecdotes about estrada race for gov'"—incorrectly the date Presidential Minders Rubrigo Beronio Pelaez issued the suspension letter for 35, Rodolfo "Boboy" Biazon Ortanez, who is running for Dasmariñas Mayor governor. The suspension letter was dated March 30—not April 30.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Inquirer Reader's Service Center, 5th floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City, fax No. 897-07-93/94, e-mail address: thelit@inquirer.com.ph.

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Have a heart, heart doc asks GMA son, 'Mikey'

Front page A1

husband is in "guarded condition" after high-risk, open-heart surgery on Monday—is overseeing the congressional seat vacated by the First Couple's eldest son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

And he's nothing over the filing of a disqualification case against him, which he has attributed to the Arroyo camp.

"Election requires selection. If they will disqualify me, they will disqualify [Mikey's] opponent," Montemayor, the young doctor's lone challenger, told the Inquirer yesterday.

According to Montemayor, a native of Barangay Santo Tomas in Guagua, Pampanga, the case to declare him a nuisance candidate relates heavily on the observation that he has yet to put up campaign posters.

It also questions his residency, he said, adding that he had learned about the case, supposedly filed with the other day at the Commission on Elections office in Pampanga, from his father, a trial court judge.

Providing a choice

Montemayor said that he decided to contest the second district of Pampanga so that the people would have a choice, and that the Arroyo camp might have been alarmed by the support he had been getting.

"We have been deprived of proper representation in Congress. [Mikey] does not even know how to speak Kapampangan. He was not born in Pampanga," said Montemayor, who is running under the Liberal Party wing of Sen. Franklin Drilon.

Montemayor has also cited the period in 2001 when, at the height of allegations that the young Arroyo and his father had benefited from "jueteng" payoffs, they were sent to the United States by the President.

He said Pampanga residents found that a representative of the jueteng scandal could again paralyze development in the second district.

Montemayor, 46, is not new to Pampanga politics.

He ran for the governorship of Pampanga in 1998 but lost to Lito Lapid

Board topnotcher

According to his associates, Montemayor trained members of the Fire family in the 1990s.

But the cardiologist refused to deny or confirm this, saying: "That medical information requires confidentiality."

Montemayor presently chairs the ethics committee of the Philippine College of Physicians.

He graduated from the De La Salle University and was the topnotcher in the board exams in medical technology in 1981 and in medicine in 1986.

AFP chief accepts low rating, vows to work on it

By Christine O. Avendaño

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. HERMOGENES ESPERON JR. yesterday said he accepts, if with humility, the low trust rating he got from the people and vowed to work hard in winning more people to his and the AFP side.

Esperon said he welcomed the latest Pulse Asia survey showing that four out of 10 Filipinos do not trust him while the same percentage also do not have reliance in trust or distrust the AFP chief.

"I humbly accept said results as it provides me and the AFP the greater opportunity and motivation to continue and to improve the services that we provide the Filipino people," Esperon said in a statement.

Looking at the findings, he said the 15 percent trust rating he got "serves as an inspiration for me and the AFP to continue to do what we are doing" while the 41 percent undecided answer "would serve as a challenge for me and the AFP to win over" and the undecided 41 percent as an opportunity for possible source of support."

"We shall take serious as a constant this document," Esperon said.

He maintained in his statement the accomplishments that the military had been making to be of service to the people.

This included the gained the military in crushing the 20-year-old communist insurgency the said that since the start of the year AFP operations against the New People's Army had resulted in the "neutralization" of 300 members of the NPA and the recovery of 1,250 high powered firearms.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 14, 2007
Octave of Easter, Saturday
1st Reading: Acts 4:13-21
Gospel: Mark 16:9-15

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported this news to his followers, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

After that he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking in the country. These two went back and told the others, but they did not believe them.

Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary:

The Easter message is not just about the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit. They want us to be converted to the name of Jesus again or to touch people about him. But they will also only find, and be the means why are he preaches.

This add-on ending to Mark's gospel is a summary of many of the appearances of Jesus to his disciples in shortened forms to Mary of Magdala at the tomb—they did not believe her. To the disciples on the road—they did not believe them (or that is the conclusion of the story, though it's other side to take). And even more so don't have—that Jesus appeared to them while they were at table to their chore for not believing the proclamation of resurrection from one another. And always the urgent task of witnessing and the presence of the Risen Lord must lead to going into the world to preach. Do we preach?

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND INVESTORS OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT OF SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

DURING THE MARCH 22, 2007 LAUNCHING OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT LOCATED AT HACIENDA LOOC, NASUGBU BATANGAS, SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION (SMIC) ANNOUNCED THAT:

1. THE PROPERTIES IN PHASE I OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT ARE NOT COVERED BY ADVERSE CLAIMS.

2. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OVER SOME OF THE PROPERTIES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT HAVE ALREADY LAPSED AND ARE NOT VALID AND SUBSISTING.

THESE STATEMENTS ARE FALSE.

THE TRUTH IS THAT:

1. TCT NO. 108973 AND TCT NO. 108974 ISSUED BY THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS OF NASUGBU, BATANGAS, WHICH FORM PART OF PHASE I OF THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT, ARE COVERED BY ADVERSE CLAIMS.

2. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON 2,700 HECTARES OUT OF THE 5,800 HECTARES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT AROSE FROM THE FAILURE AND REFUSAL OF SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION, MANILA SOUTHCOAST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MSDC) AND THEIR AFFILIATE COMPANIES TO FULLY PAY THE DISTURBANCE COMPENSATION OF THE FARMERS WHO HELD THE CERTIFICATES OF LAND OWNERSHIP (CLOA'S) OVER SAID PROPERTIES, AS WELL AS MSDC'S FAILURE AND REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. THE ISSUANCE OF NEW TITLES TO MSDC, AN SMIC AFFILIATE, IS IRREGULAR AND IMPROPER SINCE SEVERAL OF THESE FARMERS WHO WERE THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF AT LEAST 2,000 HECTARES COVERED BY THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT HAVE NOT YET SURRENDERED THEIR OWNER'S DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF TITLES (CLOA'S) TO THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY PAID THEIR DISTURBANCE COMPENSATION, AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND STATED IN THE MARCH 10, 1998 COURT ORDER IN DARAB CASE NO. IV-Ba-3468.

3. THE ADVERSE CLAIMS ANNOTATED BY CARMONA REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON AT LEAST 11 TITLES WHICH FORM PART OF THE 5,800 HECTARE HAMILO COAST PROJECT REMAIN VALID AND SUBSISTING AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN CANCELLED IN COURT. IN THE CASE OF SAJONAS V. CA (258 SCRA 79) AND DIAZ-DUARTE VS. ONG (298 SCRA 388), THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT A NOTICE OF ADVERSE CLAIM REMAINS VALID AND SUBSISTING EVEN AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE 30-DAY PERIOD AND CONTINUES AS A LIEN UPON THE PROPERTY UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT IT IS CANCELLED BY A COURT ORDER.

THE PUBLIC AND PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE, THEREFORE, ADVISED TO TAKE THE PROPER STEPS TO ASCERTAIN AND VERIFY THAT THE PROPERTIES IN THE HAMILO COAST PROJECT THAT THEY WILL BE PURCHASING FROM SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES, PARTNERS AND AGENTS ARE NOT PART OF THE 2,700 HECTARES WHICH ARE COVERED BY SAID ADVERSE CLAIMS.

APRIL 13, 2007, MAKATI CITY.

ONGKIKO KALAW MANHIT & ACORDA LAW OFFICES

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Sonia Roco apologizes for remark on autism

By Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE SONIA Roco yesterday vowed to tone up the campaign for persons with autism in the Senatorial elections.

Roco made the promise following an apology to the Autism Society Philippines for a derogatory rubber stamp television chat had the organization riled up offense.

"I talked to Dang Roco on Easter Sunday and apologized. She said she accepted," Roco told the Senators.

Rong Ui Roo is the president of the autism society.

She wrote a letter to the editor published on Thursday taking offense at Roco's comparison of Team Unity with persons with autism for the administration slate's alleged being oblivious to some emotional issues.

"I offered support for their cause if elected and granted her Happy Easter," Roco said of her communication with the leader of the autism society.

Roco said that she told her the group will also circulate her apology.

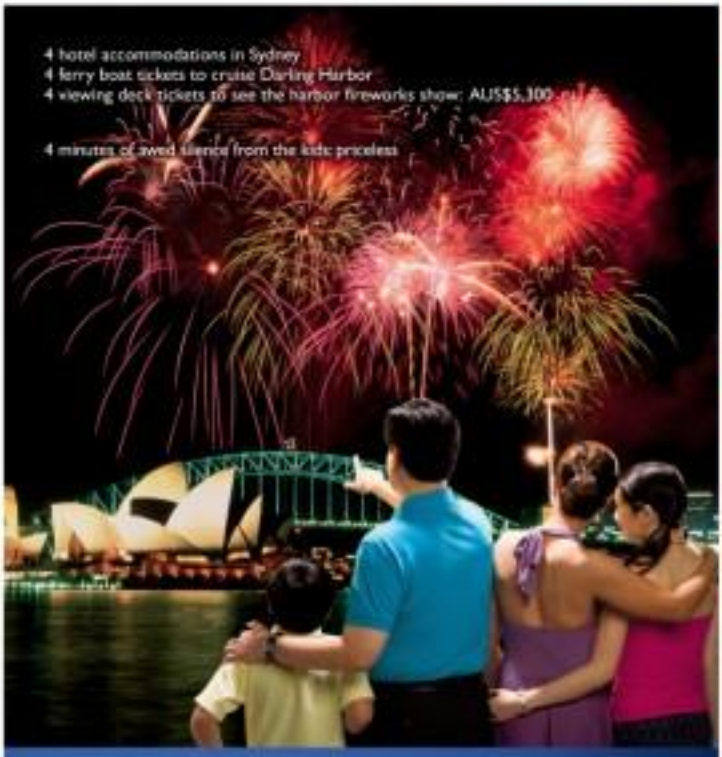
"ABS-CBN and ABC (Sonia's actual remarks) is for the past two days ... I've done my best. I hope that issue can be put to rest," Roco said.

Roo said the autism society took offense at Roco's saying "that is (Team) Unity was autistic. (Their) sense is so autistic" referring to the GO's political foes in the administration's Team Unity senatorial slate seen interviews over ABC.

Roo said Roco laughed heartily after watching the comment.

"But one could not laugh with her. Because the remarks came from Roco, a responsible citizen," Roo said.

"Families of Filipinos with autistic relatives could not help but feel hurt by her comment given the context it was said," Roo added.



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St. Luke's team cited for 'job well done'

From page A1

press conference on Thursday that he had congratulated the team for its excellence.

Ironically, it was Yap's arrival which put the ILMC team on the defensive and prompted the hospital management to present all 17 members to reporters at the press conference.

'Believe in ourselves'

"Please, let us believe in ourselves as Filipinos," Cuneneng told the reporters.

He appealed to the media to correct "sensationalism" in a newspaper item (not the byword) that Yap was summoned because the 10-spine-confined team could not do the job.

Cuneneng and Cervantes said the patient, upon the suggestion of a friend of the First family to give "moral support."

"The team of St. Luke's is doing an excellent job, and based on Mr. (Yap's) statement, the First Gentleman is even better in terms of recovery compared to other patients with the same case that he has handled," Cervantes said at the press conference.

"He was very impressed with the way the surgeons and the rest of the team managed the First Gentleman and he was very surprised that the recovery is faster than most of the patients he had seen so far. We're very happy about that, and I would like to congratulate our team for doing a great job," Cuneneng said.

He said that while Arroyo had passed the 48-hour critical period, "we need to be very vigilant to be very sure that his recovery will continue."

"Let's continue to pray for the full recovery of the First Gentleman, and we will continue our job here in St. Luke's to make sure that his best professional service will be given," Cuneneng said.

Roll call

According to Cuneneng, Tayag in on the discussions during the team's daily conferences but made no suggestions.

"He came to my office yesterday and he congratulated me for the fantastic team here in St. Luke's. We're doing an excellent job," Cuneneng said.

Apart from Cervantes and Cuneneng, the other members of the multidisciplinary medical team are Gutierrez, a neurologist; Dr. Antonio Illinda, director of the ILMC International Heart Institute; Dr. Ramon Buenviaje, cardiologist; Dr. Jose Silvestre Cruz, Jr., interventional cardiologist; Dr. Nancy Chiu and Dr. Myra Dolor, cardiac intensivists; Dr. Enny Lopez, a retinitive and personal cardiologist of Arroyo; Dr. Joanel Lim, chair of the ILMC department of anesthesiology; Dr. Dahlia Estrera, anesthesiologist; Dr. Ruth Dimagmaliw, pulmonary intensivist; Dr. Oscar Haddad, nephrologist and chair of the ILMC department of medicine; Dr. Jesusa Nuñez, hematologist; Dr. Michael Villa, endocrinologist; Dr. Adrian Belo, infectious diseases specialist; Dr. Manuel Martinez, neurosurgeon and director of the Institute for Neuroscience; and Dr. Abelita Aquino, neurologist.

Said Mother Trinidad Laggui, ILMC vice president for nurses affairs, of the team members: "They are all trained overseas and have the credentials. They are experts [with] excellent training in state-of-the-art technology and patient care."

According to Lagunzad, the ILMC is the Philippines' No. 1 hospital and is at par with the best in the United States. "We are better equipped than 98 percent of the hospitals in the US and in the Philippines we are probably the best."

'TAKE A BOW: The 15-member surgical team that successfully operated on Jose Miguel Arroyo is presented to the media on Thursday. Seen at (from) are from left, Dr. Henry Chin, Dr. Rommel Cariño, team attending physician Jaime Bayoca-Cervantes and St. Luke's medical director Dr. Jason Cuneneng.

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KEEP THE 3 O'CLOCK HABIT

Roco trapped in elevator on Friday the 13th

From page A1

had luck and x-ray to avoid in many cultures around the globe, including the Philippines.

Trapped in 1990 quake

Roco said the experience didn't at all bring back the horror of being trapped under the rubble of a collapsed hotel building in Baguio City during the 1990 earthquake.

"That was different. Then, there were no lights and there were bodies around. This time, there were lights and we had enough air," she said.

Roco entered the elevator with a group of six that included her sister Betty Fernandez, her fellow-in-law Hon. (Lt. Joseph) Estrella (lawmaker Jesse Mitra and Alfonzi's 7-year-old granddaughter Anastasia Barayuga.

"I was not afraid. It just took rather long. I was fanning my fan the whole time," said Anastasia, the only child in the group of taxpayer/passengers.

10-12 capacity

Roco said they paused and talked with other passengers.

"I guess the only reason for us to be afraid was that nobody was communicating with us to tell us that something was being done to rescue us," she said.

Another concern was that many of the passengers had not had their lunch yet.

"We were supposed to have lunch at the CO headquarters," she said.

CO spokesperson Abel Tamayo could not explain how the 20th elevator flew until the session the elevator jammed was because it was overloaded.

He was told the capacity of the elevator was from 10 to 12 people.

Tamayo said he himself avoids taking the elevator unless going to the CO's third floor headquarters.

"I take the stairs [because] I don't want to gain weight," he said, adding that CO had no plans of moving.

Rescued by miners

Roco said yesterday's experience was "nothing" compared to her 36-hour ordeal during the July 16, 1990 quake. The intensity 7.9 quake that hit Baguio City killed an estimated 1,600 and injured and left homeless tens of thousands more.

"But still we share cold shakes," said the widow of the late Gen. Basil Roco.

Roco was in Baguio that day more than 36 years ago to attend a seminar. She was residing at the Nevada Hotel on Leonard Road. When the quake hit, the lower floors of the five-storey building crumbled under the weight of the upper floors.

Roco, who was buried under the rubble with other hotel guests and personnel, was rescued by miners.

She said that unlike the horror and panic of the Baguio quake, most of the trapped passengers yesterday were calm.

Thinking positive

"We kept on encouraging each other—that we're going to be rescued, people will come and help us. Some were praying," she said.

The passengers were "thinking positive," some of the men were laughing sarcastically, she said.

Roco, however, complained that the "response was not that fast."

"She retired, wanted and worked," she said. The two outside passengers became impatient. They opened the elevator hatch and climbed out.

She said the frantic knocks of the two on the building's roofing caused some wire dicing nothing and was just waiting for the rescuers of the elevator operator who was not on his lunch break.

Lawyer Lorna Kapunan had to call up Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay to dispatch firemen, she said.

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Sandigan grants Atong Ang medical leave

By Jaroslyn B. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN 7TH DIVISION granted Charlie "Atong" Ang's request to undergo a medical examination at the Philippine Heart Center on Monday.

But his lawyer, gambling lords, jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who earlier sought a medical furlough on his birthday on April 19, may have to wait until his mother's birthday on May 1.

The Sandiganbayan's First Division also granted Ang's lawyers, Ruth Castelo and Alfredo Villarico to transfer their client to the hospital in Manila on Monday, where he is to undergo a medical examination at 9 a.m. in a.m.

Ang's physician, Dr. Rolmo Garo II, earlier informed the court that Ang, who complained of chest pains last week, may be suffering from angina pectoris caused by a blockage in the heart's coronary arteries.

Citing that the condition could be life threatening, Castelo yesterday told the Sandiganbayan that Ang was in need of urgent medical treatment.

During the hearing on both motions yesterday, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio suggested to the Special Division that it allow Estrada out of his Tanay, Rizal rest house on May 1(Joseph's birthday instead of his 70th birthday next week and allow him to undergo medical treatment on the same day.

"No everything will be settled in just one grant," he told the court, adding that Estrada's condition did not need urgent medical attention as said earlier by his physician, Dr. Lorenzo Rocson.

Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro said the court would wait for the comment of the prime before resolving Estrada's motion.

Villarico also asked the court to resolve their application for bail while it has yet to make a ruling on their appeal for probation so that Ang would have his shorter in the hospital without having to ask the court each time.

"There might be a need for (Ang) to undergo periodic checkups so if his request for bail will be granted, we don't have to go back to the court every now and then and ask [permission]," Villarico told reporters after the hearing.

Ang was sentenced to a jail term of two up to six years for corruption of a public official in relation to cashier bribery in the plunder case against Estrada.

Castelo added that the court resolve the petition in their favor on Monday they might defer Ang's treatment for a day or two, if his doctor would allow it, and wait for the resolution.

"But if the doctor says he really needs to undergo check-up and treatment, that we'll bring him to the hospital on Monday," she said.

Ang's lawyers expect a favorable ruling since the prosecution did not oppose the petition and Ang has already settled his P25 million civil liability.

"We did not oppose his (Ang) request because he is already convicted and he is entitled for probation," Villa-Ignacio said.

As to Estrada's request, he said: "If the request is exclusively based on celebrating his birthday in Greenhills, we are opposing because it might be perceived as giving the former president special privilege not enjoyed by others similarly situated prisoners."

"But if the request is for him to undergo medical exam and even his mother, we are not opposing."

Ladlad rallies vs Comelec

ABOUT A HUNDRED members and supporters of the homosexuals rallied in front of the Commission on Elections main office in Manila yesterday to demand the purge of "fake" party-list groups and the disclosure of the names of nominees of over 86 groups eligible to run in the May polls.

The protesters belonging to the group Ang Ladlad, one of the groups recently denied accreditation by Comelec the race bearing a series of allegations, and militants, which has exposed the existence of party-list groups that were government backed or do not really represent a sector but political parties.

The rallies and pink-dressed protesters ordered Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos to be "honorable" when he labeled Ang Ladlad constituents as "abnormal."

They suggested that Abalos undergo basic values training on morality, ethics and gender sensitivity.

Theaters' woes

"Maaka until we were threatened with this rally, we'll show Comelec that we are not the phantom, but the opposite," Ang Ladlad founding president Danton Remoto said in a text message.

Remoto, who said warned that Ang Ladlad was superseded by its "fierce" rivals it was applying for to participate in the party-list polls, said there should be a clear and transparent process of accreditation.

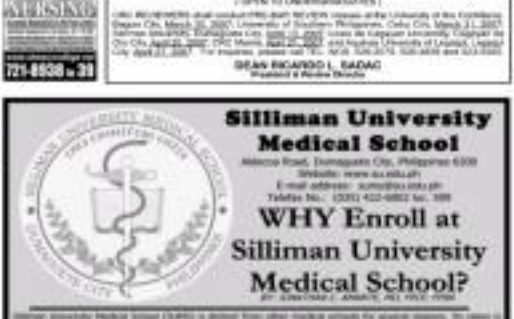
He blasted Abalos, and Comelec had been hiding "party-list phantoms" in its closet.

"Cases and violations are been used—with rights as accusers and victims—then these dubious party-list organizations that the Comelec chair) indicated should be awarded. The refusal of the Comelec to hear the issues of partylist nominees means that it wishes to protect these phantom organizations," said Abalos spokesman and gay activist Jonas Bagas.

"Why not tell these phantoms to come out of Comelec's closet?" he asked.

According to Bagas, said gays and lesbians continue to be discriminated against in schools, in the workplaces and even within their families. He said they fear harassment because of their sexuality and some reject their physical characteristics.

Jaroslyn Ang



Pacquiao fight to be aired in GenSan

By Aquilee Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—BOXING superstar Manny Pacquiao's fight against Mexican Jorge Solis will be televised as scheduled at the Lagao gymnasium here on Sunday, according to Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr.

Acharon told reporters on Friday that the city government already made an advance payment to Solar Sports for the pay-per-view airing of the Pacquiao-Solis bout.

The mayor, a godfather during Pacquiao's wedding, said airing Saturday's fight here has become a tradition.

Acharon said the fight was purely a sporting event and he would make sure it would not be tainted by politics.

Pacquiao is running for Congress against opposition stalwart Jose Salvador Bay. Incumbent Antonino Custodio, an ally of Acharon.

"Let us be taken for a moment: The saying would allow us all to watch the fight of our boxing hero Manny Pacquiao. We hope seriously would make it a political event because we will never allow it," Acharon said.

Grand welcome, win or lose

Pacquiao's political detractors and gunmen will be banned inside the gymnasium during the fight's airing. However, Custodio, which symbolizes outside political parties, will be allowed, according to Acharon.

The city government is also preparing a grand welcome for Pacquiao—win or lose.

Pacquiao's group, the People's Champ Movement (PCM), has plans to stage a similar welcome after the boxing idol comes home on April 26.

READY Pacquiao training at The Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles, California, for his upcoming title bout tomorrow against Mexican challenger Jorge Solis in San Antonio, Texas. AFP/FREDERIC J. BROWN

Jun Pascual, PCM head here, said they wanted this to be the grandest welcome ever for Pacquiao.

He said about 200 public utility vehicles, including tricycles, were expected to join the caravan from the airport.

Pascual said they were talking with the city government as they could coordinate Pacquiao's homecoming.

Manny's political foes watching fight for poll violation

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT EVERYONE WILL WATCH GENERAL Santos-bred boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao in his seventh round-knockout victory over Jorge Solis this weekend.

Supporters of opposition Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Pacquiao's opponent in the political arena, will be closely watching the ads in the hope of spotting any violations of the law, Elections Act.

"People in General Santos City should monitor if there will be any advertisements featuring Manny Pacquiao in between rounds," lawyer Jimo Bril, lawyer of the United Opposition told the Inquirer yesterday. "If there will be such commercials, they can be used as grounds for the possible disqualification of Pacquiao."

The opposition was adopting a wait-and-see attitude following the Commission on Elections' resolution allowing the telecast of Pacquiao's bout against Mexican Jorge Solis tomorrow in Stockton.

Advertisements to promote the fight and interviews outside Pacquiao's sparring sessions are banned in Gensan, which is part of the first district of South Cotabato, while Pacquiao is running for congressional, the Commission said on Thursday.

The Comelec also gave the go signal to air television footage of his sparring sessions in the area, but not including ads promoting the fight and interviews of Pacquiao not related to boxing.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento yesterday said Pacquiao's product endorsements like Hanan, Dain Pain energy and San Miguel Corp.'s products, could be aired in Metro Manila and other parts of the country but not in Gensan and other areas in the first district of South Cotabato.

The Comelec was responding to a letter by Brillantes who called the agency's attention on Pacquiao's numerous advertisements.

Undue advantage

Brillantes said the Comelec might be giving the hugely popular boxer undue advantage over Custodio.

Sarmiento described the Comelec's position as "vague," while adding a "well-founded fear" to media coverage.

"It's not feasible for networks televising the fight nationwide, to black the telecast only in GenSan," Brillantes said. "I don't know how they intend to do that."

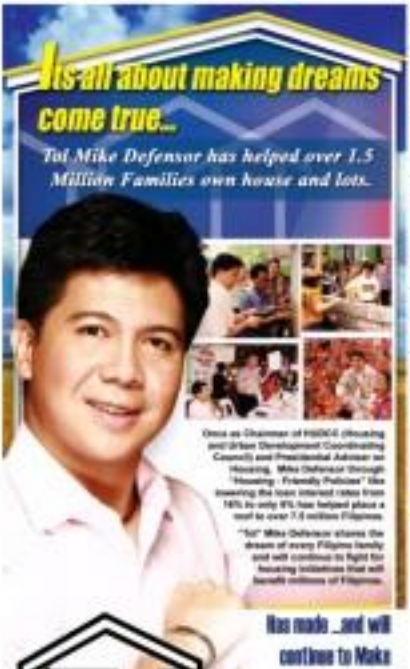
The lawyers also moaned of "guesswork" arising from the "territorial limit" set by the Comelec on Pacquiao's ads.

"It's a fact that voters in GenSan are not just confined in the area. They're everywhere. So they also see advertisements of Pacquiao in other places like Metro Manila," he said.

In the future, a candidate for a local position, say, in Pasay, might put up ads near the city's border like Manila, Brillantes pointed out.

Following the Comelec's position, the candidate could easily rationalize that his materials were technically in Manila, not Pasay.

"Other candidates can take advantage of this possibility," Brillantes said. With a report from Jillson C. Tandoc Jr.



Manny 10-to-1 favorite vs undefeated Mexican

From page A1

(cont'd)

crowd with Mexican Jorge Solis on Saturday at the Alamodome here. (More stories on Pacquiao on Pages A13, A14.)

According to oddsmakers, those picking Pacquiao increased after seeing Solis during Wednesday's open workout, which was held on the city known for its predated for big things.

Pacquiao, on the other hand, endeared himself to the locals after stopping the last-round knockout victory over Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera in the 11th round four years ago also at the Alamodome.

16-course buffet

Finding the $10.50 PPV charge too much, Espinosa and Mexicans here are organizing themselves into groups to watch the fight together.

A case in point is the SM Chocolate Oriental Market, which is offering a 16-course Manny Pacquiao buffet Saturday night in the adult.

Specializing in Filipino food, the restaurant located at Oriental City, is owned by a Basque-Filipino couple. It is the favorite hangout of Pacquiao fans Monico Mesares, the first Filipino to become a member of the San Antonio Police Department, and Francisco Ochoa, an international realtor.

ALLIED BANK
Will you see where your future leads or lead your future?

It's up to you!

Comelec oversees PNP starting Saturday

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

STARTING TODAY, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) will exercise supervisory powers over the Philippine National Police.

This means the Comelec can replace and reassign police officials if grounds are valid.

The commission's orders, decisions and directives will also prevail over those coming from any other authority except the Office of the President.

Until June 13

Based on a resolution passed last year, the Comelec will exercise supervision and control over all police units starting one month before the elections until June 13, said Comelec National Capital Region acting regional director Winfred Dronda.

Profanity is a particular problem with the most common reason for replacing police officials, Dronda added.

"There were some cases during the previous elections where police officials were relieved following complaints of their perceived partiality in manned election areas.

There are no specific complaints before the Comelec-NCR as yet, according to Dronda.

The Comelec-NCR will meet with police officials all over the metropolis on Sunday.

Army troops kill Satur's co-accused in Leyte

TAX DEADLINE
An official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue receives income tax returns outside a BIR office in Manila. As the sign says, the deadline for the filing of the tax returns has been extended up to Monday since the traditional deadline, April 15, falls on Sunday. MYRA GONZALES

By Christine D. Avendaño
and Joey A. Sarmiento, Inquirer Visayas

A DAMNING NEW PIECE IN ARMY OFFICIAL it Leyte was also hit and killed yesterday after he allegedly fought back as troops were in an hour him.

The military identified the slain rebel as Pedrosepin Opo alias "Bimmong," said to be the secretary of the White Area Committee, Northern Leyte Front (NLF) of the Eastern Visayas Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Opo is the brother of Parmer Opo alias "Bobi," commander of the Front Guerrilla Unit of the NLF that were charged with multiple murder in connection with the discovery of 58 mass graves in Inopacan, Leyte, last year. Parmer was arrested by Army troops early this month.

The Opo brothers as well as Satur Mora Ocampo were among the 59 persons whose the police charged with the murder of 21 suspected military aides who were allegedly executed in Leyte by the NPA in the 80s. The 21 were identified from 47 skeletal remains that were dug up from a mass grave in Inopacan town in August last year.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the Opo brothers were among the more than 200 NPA members who were "neutralized" since the start of the year by the AFP.

"Both are responsible in the burning of P200-million worth of Philippine Rational Oil Company equipment, series of robbery, extortion, ambush and murders in Leyte," Esperon said in a statement.

AFP information chief Lt. Col Bartolome Bacarro said personnel of the 8th Infantry Division attacked Opo at about 1 p.m. yesterday at his hideout in barangay Sta. Cruz, Villaba in Leyte.

"During the arrest, Opo fought back, slightly wounding one of the arresting personnel," Bacarro said.

Bacarro said Opo was fatally wounded during the firefight and died while en route to the Ormoc City Hospital.

He said the wounded soldier, PFC Jhon Arevalo Ortosa, was also brought to the hospital for treatment.

Lt. Col. Lope Ingco, commanding officer of the 19th Infantry Battalion, and Army troops, led by 2nd Lt. Marvin Castillo, were about to serve a warrant of arrest issued against Opo by Judge Ephrem Maandal of the Regional Trial Court Branch 14 based in Hilongos.

But while en route were about to capture another sub-leader, one of Opo's companions were coming and opposed the. This resulted in a firefight that lasted for about five minutes," Bacarro said.

After the firefight, Opo was found lying down near the house's back door with an Automatic rifle beside him. He was hit at the back and left leg, resulting in his death, Bacarro said. Four other rebels managed to escape.

Opo was brought first to a health center in nearby Matag-ob town for post-mortem examination but was later transferred to a private hospital in Ormoc City.

His remains were brought to the E Santa Funeral Homes, also in Ormoc City.

The military also nabbed one Romeo Sagalbit, the owner of the house, and brought the latter for questioning to the 19th IB headquarters in Barangay town, Leyte.

Anti-terror law to kill peace talks

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO FORGE peace with rebel or Moro groups will be for naught once the anti-terror law takes effect on July 14, according former Sen. Ed Angara, negotiator and the first Senate author of the Bangsa Moro party for group.

Gutierrez said this was because under the law, groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation, the National Democratic Front, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement and the Young Officers Union would be considered terrorist groups for involvement in rebellion and coup d'etat.

"Then the anti-terror law becomes effective, the peace process is dead. Under the law, the MILF, the NDF, RAM and the YOU are all terrorists because in the law is says rebellion and coup d'etat are terrorist acts," Gutierrez told reporters in a Christmas meeting.

He also said government officials would then be restrained from negotiating with the rebel groups because they could be punished under the anti-terrorism law, also known as the Human Security Act of 2007.

According to him, there are two factors to prevent the holding of peace talks. The first is the government policy not to deal with "terrorists," and the second is the penalty imposed on government officials that deal with such groups or people.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Aborted

WHISTLE-BLOWERS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF Education have succeeded in stopping a fast-break with taxpayers' money that would have sent some corrupt officials laughing all the way to the bank and cost the government tens—possibly hundreds—of millions of pesos in losses. A timely tip to the Inquirer and the subsequent exposé forced the DepEd regional office in Ilocos to call off the bidding for the supply of some 680 desktop computers and educational compact disks to the tune of P150 million. With that kind of budget, the whistle-blowers pointed out, each computer together with nine set of CDs would have cost an average of P200,000. Unbranded desktop computers can be bought for as low as P25,000 in the market.

DepEd sources, who leaked the story to the Inquirer, said they feared that it was a scandal in the making not much different from the P728-million fertilizer scam in 2004. In the earlier scandal, government auditors found out that liquid fertilizers either had been grossly overpriced or had not been delivered as reported by the Department of Agriculture. The funds were released shortly before the 2004 elections, leading to suspicions that the money was used for electioneering.

Other than a possible gross corruption, what aroused suspicions about the Ilocos computer deal was the almost-really-short timetable for the delivery of the items. In the bidding scheduled last Thursday, DepEd Ilocos required the winner to deliver all the items by April 20, or just eight days after the opening of the bids. But DepEd sources pointed out that winning bidders are usually given at least months to deliver the goods. And quite obviously they didn't think it was purely coincidental that the project was being last-tracked with the election just a month away, and that some people close to Malacañang, including President Macapagal-Arroyo's second son Dato, are running for various positions.

Even outsmart is that nobody can say—or wants to say—where the money came from. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said his office had nothing to do with the "multimedia package" for Ilocos public schools. The project "did not pass my office," Lapus said, although he added that Ilocos was "deserving to get such funding" after absorbing the brunt of supertyphoons "Reming" last year.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. ought to know. The DepEd sources said it was Andaya, a former congressman from Camarines Sur, who signed Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) 0277 covering the P150-million fund for Ilocos last February. But Andaya isn't talking, except to deny that the money came from the congressional pork barrel, euphemistically called Priority Development Assistance Fund.

The P150 million for Ilocos was but part of some P480 million released by the DBM for "multimedia packages" distributed in a handful of regions, according to bureau sources at the DepEd. If all that money did not come from the DepEd budget or the PDAF, what was the source of the funds and who approved the appropriation? Andaya is bound by law to identify the source before he approves fund releases, so why is he not telling the Filipino taxpayers where his money—millions of them—went? If the money did not come from any specific appropriation for the purpose, did he not exceed his authority by taking funds appropriated for other purposes? Has government budgeting under the Arroyo administration come to this pass that the budget secretary can juggle hundreds of millions of pesos as we only can?

After the devastation wrought by "Reming," Ilocos certainly needs a lot of help as Lapus said. But equipping public schools with computers doesn't look like a very urgent necessity. Before government officials even thought of burying computers in the schools in Ilocos, did they make sure that all the schools Ilocos down by "Reming" have been rebuilt? Have they already made adequate provisions for the homeless to have a roof over their heads? Are the families left penniless and jobless by the supertyphoon now eating enough? Unless all these have been provided in adequate quantities, putting computers in Ilocos's public schools is like telling Ilocanos to eat cake if they can't afford bread.

Our officials should rethink their priorities. There are life-and-death matters that require their priority attention—and they do not include the political survival of any politician, young or old.

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Sections 66 and 67 of the Omnibus Election Code

I MADE A LITTLE RESEARCH ON SECTIONS 67 of the Omnibus Election Code (BP 881) to see if it has been amended or repealed by subsequent election laws, specifically the Election Reform Law of 1987 (RA 6646), the Congressional Elections Law of 1907 (RA 7166), the Supplemental Congressional Elections Law of 1987 (RA 6645), the Local Elections Law of 1988 (RA 6636), the Synchronized Elections and Decennial Reforms Law of 1991 (RA 7166), and the Fair Elections Act of 2001 (RA 9006). I included in my study the related Section 66 of the same Code.

If I was less than careful and missed some obscure laws that abrogated or amended the said sections, I suppose that the reader deep dive into the outright and devious his attention to something more worthwhile. Otherwise, assuming that the new sections have not been changed and are still completely intact, let us consider if they are using outdated and obsolete, laughingly ignored, or deliberately violated.

The rule on elective officials reads in full as follows:

"Sec. 67. **Candidates holding elective office.** Any elective official, whether national or local, running for any office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity, except for President and Vice-President, shall be considered upso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

A similar rule applies to appointive officials under the preceding section reading in full as follows:

"Sec. 66. **Candidates holding appointive office or position.** Any person holding a public appointive office or position, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and officers and employees in government-owned or controlled corporations, shall be considered upso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of a certificate of candidacy."

In accordance with the rule of statutory construction that the express mention of one thing implies the exclusion of another not mentioned, the above sections apply only to elective officials and appointive officials. Other officials, such as those in the civil service, are not covered by the said sections. Thus, Sen. Francisco Tatad, who is not an elective official, is not covered by Section 67 and may continue to hold his office while running for senator. Ditto with Cabinet members and other appointive officials who are not presidential appointees.

Next, Section 67 applies only to elective officials running for any office other than the one they are holding in a permanent capacity. Thus, Vice-President Noli de Castro, who is running for President, is not covered by the said section. Ditto with Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who are running for President. Ditto with Senator Loi Ejercito, who is running for Vice-President. Ditto with Senator Panfilo Lacson, who is running for President. Ditto with Senator Mar Roxas, who is running for Vice-President. Ditto with Senator Francisco Tatad, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ralph Recto, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Manuel Villar, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Jinggoy Estrada, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Richard Gordon, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Edgardo Angara, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Flavier, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Robert Barbers, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Alfredo Lim, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Gregorio Honasan, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ralph Recto, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Mar Roxas, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Francisco Tatad, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Panfilo Lacson, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Loi Ejercito, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Jinggoy Estrada, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Richard Gordon, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Edgardo Angara, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Flavier, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Robert Barbers, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Alfredo Lim, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Gregorio Honasan, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is running for senator.

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

Section 66 is not applicable because the incumbent officials mentioned therein are not running for any office other than the one they are holding in a permanent capacity. Thus, Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. is running for President, but he is not running for any office other than the one he is holding in a permanent capacity. Ditto with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who is running for President. Ditto with Senator Loi Ejercito, who is running for Vice-President. Ditto with Senator Panfilo Lacson, who is running for President. Ditto with Senator Mar Roxas, who is running for Vice-President. Ditto with Senator Francisco Tatad, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ralph Recto, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Manuel Villar, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Jinggoy Estrada, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Richard Gordon, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Edgardo Angara, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Juan Flavier, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Robert Barbers, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Alfredo Lim, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Gregorio Honasan, who is running for senator. Ditto with Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is running for senator.

Unbeatable

Get Real

Sedfrey Cordero-Mercene

To add to all this, power doesn't seem to have any genuine appeal. Its dismal, gut-wrenching workings aside, its campaign-season trappings—one of their people, he has been seen sweeping the streets (no civic action is too small, it's stunning separating a broken arrow lamp). And most impressive of all—when he marked the anniversary of his 40th day—he and fellow true-and-pole reasons of holding their wives in close witness to keep his political star worthy could be ended not again.

An imagine my surprise to learn that Nolledo, fourth-place contender, when in a private bid after filed, at the last minute, his candidacy for mayor of Naga, the same position that Jesse is running for. What gives? Barefaced political kingpin Rep. Luis Villafuerte recently announced that he is supporting the opposite of his son for the governorship. Is the Nolledo sub's candidacy yet another Bicolano intra-family feud? Mercifully, I called Mayor Nolledo for clarification.

Aren't you a Jesse running for a second term in 1963 Nolledo's first elected by political opponent Jesse. the Villafuerte camp—one with the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID), and one with the Comelec. Not for corruption or anything to do with his professional or mayor of Naga. The case with the BID was about his being an alien (Chinese) and his failure to register as such, and therefore he is not to be deported. The case with the Comelec was for disqualification because he was not a registered voter. Both cases were dismissed for lack of merit.

But the matter did not end there: it has been ongoing up again and again. An attempt was made to reopen the BID case during Rudy's term, and the decision and appeals on that issue have varied, depending on which administration is in power. Then BID head Nelia Sharlgani ordered the case reexamined. BOI head Sam Perez reversed Rodriguez's order on appeal, Perez's successor Marcelino Libanan reversed Perez, the case is now with Raul Gonzalez.

With regard to the Comelec case, the issue was resolved in 2001, and the Comelec then ruled that Nolledo was a natural-born citizen. That decision was reversed in 2003. But the Villafuerte camp brought it up again in 2004 (eliminated) and yet again at the beginning of the campaign period in 2007.

One would think that having been adjudged a natural-born citizen time and again over the past 15 years, Nolledo should not be worried. But he says he is. Because he knows that Villafuerte, as head of the Nacionalista political party, is now mostly unbeatable. Moreover, he says that of the three Comelec commissioners in the division hearing the case, two were classmates of Villafuerte.

As Nolledo explained the matter, that the decision will not only go against him, but also handed down just to tie up appeal.

Which is why with Maria Leonor is also a candidate, albeit a reluctant one, for mayor. That is Jesse's Plan B: in case he is defeated by Comelec, he can withdraw up the appeals.

There is more here: the Villafuerte camp seems also to be expressing the worst. [illegible]—that Nolledo's citizenship will be upheld for the 4th time. And they, too, seem to have a Plan B: a few days ago, the division appointments (of the Department of Education in Naga was replaced by someone reportedly close to the Villafuerte camp. The division appointments is, by the way, a member of the board of canvassers, where wholesale cheating can take place.

That's the Philippine politics for you. I'm wishing for the good guys.

Both sides unhappy with survey results

BOTH ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITION candidates are complaining about recent survey findings. Some claim it is both disquieting (for 2007 binding that opposition candidates are gaining ground in the local level), arguing that the Gloria/ Arroyo administration has no confidence in about 70 percent of local posts; in fact, the ruling Lakas Kampi CMD has control of only 30 percent of local fighting down there. On the other hand, former Sen. John Osmeña says that Pulse Asia "rigged" its survey to favor administration candidates.

The politicians will argue that both sides are contradictory survey opinions. But some people I've spoken to, who are familiar with survey operations, say that it's to right on track in demanding that the Comelec scrutinize the survey questions and the methodology used. They fear that these survey polling firms may be "creating" some results that are not founded on reality so that if the opposite turns up after the elections, it could lead to local protests, perhaps even violence. The Comelec must not remain complacent; some people in the know local have the Smokey bed poll in 2004 clearly showed GMA's win, but not of today the question of her "legitimacy" remains skewed.

* * *

For instance, critics note that the field staff of some survey companies shoot questions using labels such as "administration" or "opposition." But critics argue that the terms are misleading, for the bigger administration or pro-opposition personnel lie or she is familiar with these terms. In reality, many voters are very confused about theory, are candidates who were formerly with the administration but are now running on the opposition ticket, while some opposition stalwarts have joined TU.

For instance, someone who wants to a pull-related field tells of encounters with said drivers who note that TU candidate Edgardo Angara was the one who persuaded PEZA to run against GMA, while Senat Aquino Drew and Tito Sotto will be known as former President Joseph Estrada's men. But former President Joseph Estrada was under GMA's ticket in 2001, but is now with GO. Lines have become so blurred for many voters.

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cabarrus

On the other hand, at the local level, it's a highly personalized campaign and voters go for the candidates they owe favors to or are comfortable with, regardless of labels.

* * *

One thing the many survey operators in Sen Gordenzan, Mike Arroyo and his pro-operator management team is that the Philippines has come a long way in election campaign operations. Over the past four years, the nation clearly followed the way the 10-member electoral system in St. Luke's hospital handled the FG's throat and surgery, which was marked by great skill and dedication. In fact, many found his chemo to be refreshingly articulate and unscripted when at their bedding of the media, so much so that the Malaya reporters named out in St. Luke's appeared quite stoned.

One of those is the PGH's personal physician, Dr. Isidro Gaspar Cortezano, who is also the chief of staff for Lone Dimaano. She's a graduate of the UE Ilot College of Medicine and St. Luke's and trained in clinical and interventional hepatology at Toledo University in Japan, investigative hepatology at the Seoul Hospital in Incheon in Pusiang, Pennsylvania, and interventional pancreaticobiliary ablation (IPA) in Singapore. Cortezano is the most experienced doctor in performing RFA (liver tumors by electrocautery, having treated and over 200 procedures with her team), which is said to be one of the most complex in the world in obtaining large liver tumors. She is the only hepatologist in the Philippines who got formal training in transplant hepatology.

* * *

The St. Luke's surgical team's competence has helped inspire confidence in our medical specialists, and it has given these able professionals the out efforts to step up medical tourism. It's said that there are a number of rumors in local hospitals that some countries address various surgical needs there. They include, aside from St. Luke's Hospital, the Asian Hospital, Makati Medical Center, the Philippine Heart and Kidney Centers and Capitol Medical Center. Once open in May, the Heart and Lung Center of the East (HLCE) underscore says enough possible only in the advanced countries. But our surgical teams have shown that they have the capability and competence to successfully perform any open-heart surgery, heart bypasses, kidney transplants, etc.

Thus, if Thailand is earning billions by luring people to its medical facilities, EP should not be left behind. We already have world-class surgical teams, capabilities and facilities that cost a fraction of what they do in developed countries. Of course, some would argue that the core shortage in RC, and this is why some cost growth to an endless extent, and this is why some doctors, like our hospitals would be performing cosmetic services as the nation if they would rather to apply services standards to all patients.

* * *

Mike Arroyo's success from his acute knee problem and his progressive recovery have been attained a notable view by the doctors. On the first day after his 30-hour operation, he was already taking exercises on the floor and walking. Within one his first male prostate, Biggy out of Date, for special attention, having the first criteria pose operator hours last Tuesday, a number of friends and supporters joined the First Family in the hospital, including Sen. Manny Villar, Sen. Sotto, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Cabinet Secretary Eduardo Ermita, and Mars at about 11 a.m. Among them were people whom Mike Arroyo had helped in various ways. One was 13-year-old Mary Joy Cuevas, who was born without legs as well as an arm and used to just crawl to move about. The PG helped her get artificial legs when she was six and their changed every two years. He also supported her schooling. Last year, Mary Joy graduated with honors from Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu and has just completed her first year at Ateneo Magsaysay High School in Manila.

To live for others

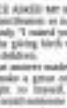
I ONCE ASKED MY MOTHER IN JEST WHAT SHE SAID as an contribution to national development was. She replied seriously, "I raised you." To her, one can play an important role by giving birth to, caring for, educating and forming one's children.

That answer made me realize that something so simple can make a great contribution to nation building. And I thought to myself, what could someone as young as I can contribute?

Young Blood

Ma. Luisa M. Jimenez

It would be easy to give a history paper answer, such as "study well. Remember, there is not a lousy pageant. Things such as studying well and developing your character are



basic responsibilities of the young student, and they should not be taken for granted, of course. But these are already expected of every young Filipino. What more should be expected of us?

In our humanistic class, a student who was assigned to give a report one day was told that she would have to postpone her presentation. Her classmates, knowing how much effort she had put into preparing her report, complained to our teacher. I still always remember his reply. "Erich, don't ever complain that you worked hard, or that as an exam. What's important is that you did your best. Any strong regret will be likely to control us forever."

But the grade are not only required to do our homework. We have it in our country to read that near chapter in advance—to go that figurative extra mile. Our role is to not only fulfill our responsibilities but to ask what more can we do.

The United Nations defines the youth as those aged 15 to 25. This means, our social, is the most vast, most diverse and most dynamic group. We are the most technologically immediate, emotionally and intellectually active. If we are motivating us mean to attain thoughts. We have the time and energy to invest in volunteer are from important. By sheer number and treasure we are so influential, our every investment or concern—even can make great ripples on a macro scale.

What then is the role of the youth in nation-building? The role is to learn and to serve. Learning and passion are attributes that are really most lovable. It doesn't take a martyr or a volition man contribute to transform society.

Take, for example, the increasing popularity of groups such as the graphic designers of "Team Manila or one of my favorite bands, Parokya ni Edgar. These people are not waiting for the country; in fact, they are helping prove good news in the country. They are living and making a living. What makes them distinct is true: they are making a living out of popularizing Filipino culture. Although this may seem like a simple task from of nationalism, it has had a great impact on how we view ourselves and how we see the world. It has given several pride in our heritage and hope that the Philippines has much to offer.

And so, as we do our homework tomorrow, we should think about how we can go a little bit further to help build the future of our nation. It is not so difficult to do this, the important thing is to start. Let us be active citizens of nation-building bigger than ourselves, educating a compassionate environment for our neighbors' needs. Simple acts of kindness, like little sacrifices we make every day can create a real ripple effect. We are called upon not to die for our country, but to live for others. That begins our humble role in nation building.

Ms. Luisa M. Jimenez, 17, recently finished high school at Ateneo de Cebu, San Lorenzo. She was picked as one of the 19 Outstanding Students of Makati for this year.

Escalating the watch

JUST AS THE TECHNOLOGY OF CHARMS IN the pulls has graduated from such crude tactics as buying votes, using guns and goons to intimidate opponents and voters, and stealing and stuffing ballot boxes to more sophisticated methods such like "digital fraud" at the municipal, city and provincial canvassing and over-the-manipulation at the highest levels, the tactics of civil, political and educational outrage to these outlandish practices must also evolve.

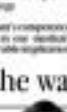
The only "new up" application has been the formation of Lente, or Legal Network for Truthful Elections, which is the first nationwide network of lawyers, law students, paralegals and other trained volunteers dedicated to the poll watch "to protect the sanctity and sanctity of ballot votes in class, manipulation, and provinces around the country, and to provide legal services to members of the Network during election day."

So while groups like PPCRV and Namfrel field volunteers at the precinct level to guard the integrity of ballots and the conduct of elections, as well as the tallying of the votes, Lente will take off from where these groups leave off and monitor the canvassing of votes "from the precincts to the provincial, city and municipal levels. Those who intend to cheat at the level will at least be aware that there is a new pair of watchful eyes," notes Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago (Retired), one of the overseers of Lente.

Lente aims to gather around 10,000 volunteers, at least 3,000 (1,500 lawyers and 1,500 law students principally), trained volunteers to monitor the canvassing of votes at 1,500 canvassing centers throughout the country. A 1,000 citizens' arbiters, and 80 provincial around the country, with actual lawyers as Lente coordinators at the local level; additional lawyers, law students and other volunteers to monitor canvassing at the national level; and other volunteers to provide support and assistance to the volunteer monitors during the canvassing process.

The 20,000 Lente volunteers will, it is hoped, be drawn from the Philippine who will be part of the CSC or volunteers for Clean Elections.

Volunteers are undertake any of four assignments of this unprecedented campaign "to protect



At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

the integrity of the elections, fight fraud and violence, and work for long-term political and social reforms." The four assignments are: voters' education and involvement; poll watching; the Citizens' Arbitrators; and the Canvassing Watch, which Lente shall oversee.

* * *

LENTE is itself an impressive network, co-convened by Jose Florante Salazar, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and Carlos Medina Jr., chief legal counsel of One Voice and one of the founders of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections during its 16 days of martial rule under Ferdinand Marcos. Its 16 member organizations, aside from the IBP and One Voice, are the CSCP-NAMFREL, founded; PPCRV, the Cardo NOG Barangay Canvass, lawyers' groups, women's groups, and the Coalition for Clean Elections, a multi-sectoral group.

In the coming weeks, our organizers, Lente will be conducting training sessions on election laws and procedures at national, regional and provincial levels. Why the need for a new organization when we already have so many election watchdogs? Says Carlos Medina: "Some volunteers watch the polls inside at the local, precinct level," explains Medina. A prime objective of Lente is to provide a watch over the enforcement of the laws governing elections. The founding of Namfrel for the 1986 elections. "Our Lente volunteers will be the 'fresh troops' when canvassing begins, when poll watchers will already be so tired from their precinct work."

This brings to mind a recent conversation I had with some friends who debated whether the "good old-fashioned" means of cheating—stuffing votes and stealing ballot boxes, counting, stuffing, not reading ballots, mis-reading votes—would still be used in the precinct level.

While some said these have been rendered null by the advanced "computerization" of cheating, others said precinct-level dirty tactics would still be resorted to, especially in operation of local conditions. Mislead agreed with the last point. "Nature abhors a vacuum," he quoted, meaning that with the new safeguards, dishonest will rush in to take advantage of the situation. Which is why there is a need for volunteers at every level of the voting and counting, he adds.

* * *

THE GATHERING of new ballot-watchers for poll watch duties, says Medina, is also one way to address the "dominance and disorganization" of many Filipinos who have been "conditioned to be disinterested in what they perceive as widespread fraud surrounding our elections that they choose not to vote or even register at all."

The current withdrawal from the system," declares Medina, "is a form of protest, but one that is affected by what government does, and no one have a big stake in the desire of people to cast ballots. We must do all that we can to ensure that our elected prevail." Which may explain why just casting your vote to choose candidates and hope for the protect to win is no longer. Good citizenship is the enemy in this day, demands vigilance and volunteerism.

Mislead himself believes that overall, the 2004 elections were conducted properly. "Nothing 18,000 positions in mind, there were less than 300 that were contested," he says. This means that the Comelec people especially at the local level performed their work well, despite poor leadership," he adds.

Of course, among those "contested" positions were the presidency and the vice presidency. The most telling report for you some of our democratic institutions didn't perform well. Alas, our poll watching efforts are not aiming any, but are in great escalating just to match the speed and sophistication of those who would steal the vote.

Endgame in Kosovo

World View

Joachim Fischer

IN THE COMING MONTHS, A PLACEMENT for decision will be made that will challenge the capacity of the European Union's foreign and security policy. It forces, for serious resolution. The issue is Kosovo's status: the last unresolved piece of the bloodstained Balkan puzzle. So Serbia and Albanians differ. Kosovo is a place haunted by history. But the world must not allow their freighted narratives about the past to cloud our actions to build a better future.

Today, Serbia, returning its attention to Russia, Moscow rediscovers both regime-dominant knowledge-controlling economy, suppressing the rights of the president's overwhelming Albanian majority, formed of people according to history as it is told in Belgrade and Pristina, presented his settlement proposal to the Security Council. Ahtisaari's bold proposal, which recommends Kosovo's independence with limited supervision by a strong international civilian and military presence, is the only viable option for the international community and for Europe in particular.

Recognizing Kosovo does for has to any stability. Since the end of the conflict in June 1999, Belgrade has not exercised any governing authority over Kosovo. Under UN administration, legitimate Kosovar institutions for managing domestic affairs have been created. With these institutions in place, the people of Kosovo have governed themselves.

Sadly, Belgrade's vision of Kosovo returning to human rule—albeit with autonomy—grows more ruthless. Indeed, Serbia has no viable strategy for integrating Kosovo's Albanian people into the political, economic and public spheres.

The UN simply cannot refer Kosovo's unresolved problems, namely the need to develop a viable economy and to begin engagement with the EU. ...or one's own self-interest. Kosovo's path to economic development is the region. But this does not mean that the international community and the EU should not keep Kosovo's every door shut.

Relations between Kosovo's Albanians majority and Serb minority remain tense. So it is imperative that strong safeguards be put in place to protect minorities. Particularly the Serbs, the creation of a commission of Kosovo's independence by a strong international civilian and military presence will be critical to ensure that it fulfills its obligations under Ahtisaari's proposal.

What is now required is the will to adopt and implement Ahtisaari's plan. In the coming weeks, the Security Council will decide Kosovo's status, but it is the EU that will have to remain with both Kosovo and Serbia.

In fact, Kosovo's fate is intertwined with the EU's own. A strong and stable Kosovo will require a cohesive and unified EU strategy. If the EU is divided, Kosovo will be left to navigate these—and at the heart of its interests—its candidate and foreign policy as not to threaten instead of hardliners will not for dramatically that only a united EU can bring Kosovo the reward for a harmonized policy toward the Balkans.

This means that the EU cannot leave Serbia to its own devices, either. The EU must make it clear that it is ready to support Serbia—and democracy as a whole—in realizing its European aspirations. European security is hinged on European integration, just as Serbian aspirations is hinged on the EU.

Only the grasp of the EU's powers cannot be changed; the major war criminals Radko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic must be delivered to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. Today, as yesterday, the first step toward Serbia's European integration is full cooperation with the ICTY.

Serbia has a benign heart with the EU, but getting there requires that it break with its own past. Both Kosovo and the EU's ability to grow are at stake. Both Kosovo and the EU's ability to grow are at stake. Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences

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Joachim Fischer was formerly foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. A leader in the Green Party for nearly 20 years, he is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Reinoso Olivarez I. Rivas, 23, is a senior for a PR agency.

Hike in pork barrel shows gov't is worst employer

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONCE AGAIN proven that it is one of the worst employers in the country by increasing the Congressmen's pork barrel allocations this year with P1.23 billion taken from the government fund for government employees.

The retirement fund is not government money. It is the hard-earned money of the 1.4 million underpaid government employees. Republika of them can testify to it, this is a case of pure, brazen stealing.

It looks narrow-eyed Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya timed this act of the measure, the government so can't find alternative sources for this, and so 7,000 to 8,000 government employees are soon likely are going to receive their retirements for the year.

The senator behind this take were government employees. The senator for many city for ripped out by simple mathematics. If you add the authorized incentive allocation of Congress to the fact that we are not outside away from the elections, it is the last time that Senate could be cured to boost the "pork-a-licious" campaign of the administration party. Surely, the 1.5 million government employees and their families still remember this when they go to the polls on May 14.

—ANNALI ENRIQUEZ-GARCIA, general secretary, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK), MERCEDES GERARDO GALICIA, chair, Confederation of Independent Unions (CIU)

If the Arroyans are doing it, it must be right?

WITH DATO ARROYO, PHILIPPINE FIRST Family Commissioner (BOMBAY, 12/12/07) running for the congressional seat of the governor's first district, it is a testament to a dearth of qualified persons from that place who can represent its constituents in the House of Representatives. It is also a slap in the face of all qualified persons from the district.

Can't from Lapanto, Camarines Sur for 3 years from election in 1961, Commissioner Mutya Santos-Arroyo (MSA) who represented in state for day elections positions the town or province. Barring any show cause as an enemy of the municipal council of Cagayan, Camarines Norte in the 1950s, the Arroyoans have never before set in your bit to be used can be considered in the 1955 local elections but I represent for this simple reason that I am not a native of this town although I married someone from this place.

In the election of 2001, during a gathering of World Vita II elections, my senior was nominated by a newly-formed municipal mayor to a congressman, who was also running for re-election. As a possible candidate for municipal mayor in Cagayan, but I rejected the idea outright because my retired provincial, city or municipal secretary had more name recognition because he was engaged in conferences of many. And when I won the acting provincial secretary of Camarines Norte, I led a tax collection campaign for civil property taxes the cash was for province and not for municipality. I refused to use the position of my father-in-law, Jesse Arroyo, in my City.

What could be the main reason for Dato's running for Congress in the first district of Camarines Sur? Why not in Lapanto where she has the representation of the district's relative Elvira Arroyo Pollico is from? With President Municipal Mayor in Iriga City until 2010, and with relatives in Bicol Rep. Salvio Arroyo in Naga City, Governor Lolita Arroyo in Pili, Nueva Ecija and Governor Ella Amoyo in Camarines, it is very clear that the Arroyos want to establish a political dynasty in the four corners of the country. This could be a very dangerous political maneuver preparatory to President Arroyo's stepping down from office. The Commission is reminded to allow for a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

By the same token, it is not unusual for Sen. Aquilino Pimentel to have his son Aquilino Pimentel III to run for governor of Camarines Sur, and Senator Juan Ponce Enrile to have his son Jackie Enrile run for governor of Cagayan, or for Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte to have his son and namesake execute governor of Camarines Sur. And there are just among the growing number of political dynasties in the country. So, what's wrong with a political dynasty?

—CONSTANCIO O. PUYAT II, JR. JP Rizal Street, Barangay Concepcion Pequeña, Dist. Camarines Norte 4804

LETTERS

A different choice for Kapampangans

THE NAMBUNDUNAN CHOICE: BETTER. Fr. Eddie Panlilio's decision to run for governor of Pampanga is very commendable. He really deserves a standing ovation and clapping for his courage, though dubious, considering the last attempt, though dubious, candidates to give to Pampangenos a choice this coming May elections.

For the good decade, the province has been mismanaged by underqualified local politicians who could not even fully understand basic issues instead of making policies that would benefit the Pampangenos. Most governor brothers who would spend more time working for the betterment of the province instead of chasing "greens" all around. We also need leaders who would fight the endemic poverty problem in our province and who would reduce "mendigo" to 0.

—LIZA CAPUT, pinoyforexpert@yahoo.com

Same 'brand-name' in every election

SUBJUGUM HAS AMONG THE MOST precious to be a righteous and wise. The issue of no declaration and a letter page some of the readers. With the 2007 elections coming, Subjugum is on the peak of a major release.

I am an agricultural person. I never have engaged in any political activity or endorsed any candidate. Some election time, I just vote quietly for my preferred candidates, the people who I believe could lead us to the "promised land."

But for more than 20 years, we always had the same "brand-name" for our congressmen. If not the father, the son. Alternately. Same Sonny Escudero, is also Cito Escudero, the son. Same it's Sonny again.

I would not have voted for his family if I felt something good for the province. Nothing. Only many businesses and I know my place very well.

—ISRAEL ESTA, Our Lady's Village, 468 Sitio 6, Subacchao, Inverapan City

Some clarifications on April 1 'Talk of the Town'

THIS REFERS TO THE "TALK OF THE Town" in the Inquirer's April 1 issue. For the kind information necessary allow us to make some clarifications.

Let us first refer to the supposedly Moro-to-rebel flag in the Gharaman by Allyne Rodriguez. That red flag with a white crescent and star in mid-year July (Eight) pertains to actually the flag of Turkey. The Moro National Liberation Front flag is different and bold within each end-crescent, but in middle comes [illegible] position with green battle inscriptions.

The whole "Talk of the Town" feature is not so much done the MNLF as it is offensive to [illegible] group. On May 1 found Libertarian Front. The MNLF flag doesn't have red field. It has green and white fields, though with a red border in between. So the number white field in the left side of the flag is a yellow or gold crescent and star in accordance sometimes [illegible] position. On the larger green field on the right side are some Arabic script and a line in north-south [illegible] position. "La Ilaha Illa Allah Muhammadu al Rasul Allah" ("There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his Prophet"), the official ideology of the MILF.

Also not to take chiefly many points in the Island from "Wind of the MILF" by Marcia Tilton.

There is an historical reference that "Bukidnon seemed to parenting the MILF in 1970." The "Bora Mindi Leadership" [illegible] Datu Ito has called the MILF leader Hashim Salamat merged only in September 1977, right after the collapse of the above-stated talks, and it was indeed formalized by Hashim's "declaration of independence" of the MNLF in November 1977. It was only in March 1984—and in 1978 or 1981—that the "Bora Mindi Leadership" officially declared itself a separatist organization called the MILF.

Further other steps that at the time of the MNLF/MILF or Misuari-Hashim split in 1977, Hashim and the independent-minded Misuari saw the autonomy. It was the other way around. With the collapse of the talks, Misuari wanted to resort to autonomy alongside the independence, while Hashim saw the autonomy the peace process for autonomy. We know now that these initial positions on political objectives and strategies have changed and evolved as time passed by.

Currently, the MILF represents the independence and Misuari the politically achieved through peace negotiations, while the MNLF represents the autonomy ones other occasionally concerned through armed violence or threats.

Muslim Filipino Prof. Julkipli M. Wadi once described this: MNLF-MILF dynamics is always a narrowing one-sided issue. "The MNLF and the MILF are separated ideologically, they are like security guards with differing schedules. When one takes a nap, the other takes over." (Inquirer, 2/14/99)

—GILBERTO M. SANTOS JR., Regional Focal Point for Asia, South-South Network (SSN) for Non-State Armed Group Engagements, 18 Barquisa St., Galas, Quezon City

Most of the information used came from the article cited, "Mindi Land Solution" by Marcia Tilton, Mindanao Focus, 2: 18-19.) The article itself which was quoted by the Inquirer Mindanao, was found in an interview with Antonio Medina.

—MARICAR TRICIA, Inquirer Research

The Big Library was not meant to represent either the MILF or MNLF but the debate people are on both using the Islamic symbols of "The crescent moon and star. Behind it was a Philippine flag not only to contrast the symbols of the movement but the real line also to show the similarities. One can where the third star of the Philippine flag would be? The use of the color red meaning attacks flag but does not the whole flag? Here are symbols of the continuing struggle of the Bilaan people.

—GILBERT MONDEJAR, Inquirer sub-Representative

Don't blame graft on lowly gov't employees

THIS IS IN REACTION TO HELENA CLAVANO-CASIMIRO'S column "Handling corruption," (INQUIRER, 3/13/07)

Casimiro is to blocked with corruption in the country on knowing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that the blame the problem of corruption in our country to petty government employees. As if to say with so many people in the government, while Madam seems for redeeming the poor person for redressing. We know now that these initiate positions on political objectives and strategies have changed and evolved as time passed by.

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Across the NATION

Top lawyers see priest's integrity

SKY'S THE LIMIT
Children whose families were displaced by a recent fire in Mandaue City take time out to fly kites in Barangay Mantuyong, where they were relocated following the fire that ate up their homes.

Poll experts say Fr. Ed 'example of good leader'

By Nikko Dizon, in Manila
and Norman Crespo, Inquirer Central Luzon

RELIEF IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE CANDIDATE led four prominent election lawyers to offer their services for free to Fr. Ed Panlilio, who broke Church tradition to run for governor of Pampanga against two leading candidates linked to corruption and illegal gambling.

"The four lawyers decided to give their support for Panlilio after weeks of intelligence and verification of Panlilio's serious entry in the electoral arena," lawyer Romulo Macalintal, one of the four lawyers, said in a text message to the Inquirer.

"They believe in the integrity and sincerity and dynamic program of Panlilio geared for the development of the province of Pampanga."

Aside from Macalintal, the other prominent lawyers who volunteered their services for Panlilio were Lelia de Lima, Rimo Bautista and Pete Quirino.

"It's not that we are anticipating a legal battle after the election. We just want to let him know that we are here for moral support and that we are ready to help him if he encounters any legal problems and in the unlikely possibility that there would be cheating," Macalintal said in a phone interview.

Macalintal said he was able to speak to Panlilio by phone on Thursday and the priest told him that he was "honored" to have the four election lawyers.

"I told him that the honor was ours. He is a good example of a good leader that traditional politicians should learn from," the lawyer said.

Macalintal said the film actor Dante Quidec, while the four of them were working for a meeting at the Supreme Court before Holy Week.

Atom, Macalintal, an active member of his parish in Las Piñas City, said he spoke to some priests and bishops he knows and asked them about Panlilio's background. He did Bautista.

"Fr. Ed didn't have any bad record. So we decided to go ahead with the plan," Macalintal said.

On Thursday, Macalintal was in San Fernando, Pampanga for a zoom hearing when he decided to drop by the priest's headquarters.

"There were a lot of volunteers at the headquarters and I saw how happy and committed they were in supporting Fr. Ed and that they were obviously not expecting anything in return. Mampo na rito sa buong sa kakain sila dun," Macalintal said.

He added that he was also impressed by Panlilio's supporters when their team was able to organize a motorcade for the priest's campaign but Sunday with more than 1,500 vehicles.

"There's nothing political in this. (Mr. services to) GMA and Gallaspas (Tiro President Noli de Castro) are all personal engagements," Macalintal said.

Their last messages to the lawyers ranged from jubilant, due to these lawyers' expertise, and to bring cautious because of the kind of chaos these lawyers serve.

Macalintal stood as counsel for Ms Arroyo and Jr Garcia in the 2004 elections. Bellantes helped Ms Arroyo's chance time), the late Fernando Poe Jr., and more recently as legal consultant of the Genuine Opposition slate, paid hostility UP versions and candidate Loren Legarda.

Quadra is legal counsel in the impeachment bid of Sen. Alfredo Lim in Manila.

De Lima in 2004 worked as counsel for the late presidential candidate Raul Roco and does the same now for Roco's wife Sonia, also a senatorial aspirant under the GO.

Panlilio said he does not doubt the sincerity of Macalintal's group.

Wrong impression on Mike A illness hits Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—BAGUIO RESIDENTS AND OTHERS are working hard to repair the city's reputation because of public impression that doctors here failed to correctly diagnose what ailed First Gentleman Atty Miguel Arroyo at the end of the First Family's Holy Week vacation.

Some residents have begun a series of prayer sessions for Arroyo, which will culminate in a Sunday Mass at the shrine of the Black Madonna along Kisad Road.

"We have neither interests, even politicians, because we want to commiserate with President Macapagal-Arroyo. I asked the candidates to shape up for Jesus because I asked them to drop their political differences and show the First Family's entitled if not so we can assure them that Baguio will always treat them kindly," said former Councilor Narcisa Bulilis.

The city government also started an information campaign for the hospital where Arroyo was first confined, and acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.

Bautista said Arroyo was taken to the Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart instead of the government-run Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center because he only complained of a stomachache and hiccups.

BGHMC receives a majority of the First Family as part of a Malacañang protocol whenever the President stays at the presidential Mansion here.

Under those circumstances, Bautista said, Baguio doctors did not have they would be the President's husband.

A medical abstract that the SLU hospital sent to the St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) on April 9 showed that Arroyo's doctors had told SLMC doctors to check Arroyo for heart aneurysm.

The abstract listed "dissecting thoracic aneurysm" and "acute pancreatitis" among a set of medical impressions. Baguio doctors' head of Arroyo's physical condition before they discharged him for "chronic gastritis" and several other heart-related conditions.

The abstract helped point SLMC doctors to Arroyo's most critical illness, ECG hospital official said.

That decision has been receiving rave reviews since from Baguio-based doctors who watch for the completeness of Dr. Peter Matulac, one of the three cardiologists who examined Arroyo on Sunday night.

Malacañang given statements could Mendiola for making Arroyo's initial diagnosis here.

"Bautista is a very well-respected breast doctor. He is known in the Philippine medical community and is sought by patients from abroad. They come here to be treated by Bautista. He should not be blamed for Ginoyo's heart condition," one of Matulac's patients told the Inquirer.

Matulac said he does not regret treating the First Gentleman, now that speculation has aroused conspiracy theories about Baguio doctors.

"Media either think we covered up the First Gentleman's condition or we misdiagnosed his case," he said.

But Matulac said Arroyo does suffer from gastritis, on top of the dissecting aortic aneurysm that SLMC doctors corrected by surgery on Monday night.

He said Arroyo had only complained of mild stomach cramps and had actually went "sleep is off" on Sunday.

"But we learned that he may for tests. In retrospect, that on Holy Week, it was a good thing we examined him in time," Bautista said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Mar Roxas: Surveys reflect sentiment of people on gov't

By Cuts P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—ROBERT ROLETTA SHOWing opposition senatorial candidates ahead of administration candidates reflect the public's sentiment, Sen. Mar Roxas said.

"There is general discontent and doubt for improvement, and the surveys showing the opposition senatorial candidates ahead are reflections of this," Roxas said on Thursday.

He was reacting to a report that senatorial candidates of the Genuine Opposition topped much elections conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and Pulse Asia.

Roxas said he was in Bacolod to campaign for Gabriel Perez senatorial candidates Georgina "Nerissa" Arcadio III and Pompeyo Dongallano.

He said he used surveys when he was in marketing and big business guys a lot of monitor feedback on their products.

Roxas said the results of the surveys are a reflection on the candidates and their ability to protect themselves.

"I think there is sincere and earnest hope for reform. And, perhaps, the populace sees that happening in the candidates they have chosen in the surveys," he said.

Roxas said Arquiza and Pangilinan were doing quite well in the surveys and he is confident of their chances but is continuing to campaign very hard for them.

He said they are pushing for an anti-criminal and reform-minded politics, which, is Vice Arquiza transforming our country best. Asked hopes to contribute is able to deliver on its promise."

Arquiza said he does not believe in the administration's claims that the surveys showing the opposition leading in the senatorial race will be proven wrong when machinery starts to work.

"If there is any fight in any contests, local candidates will armed on saving themselves first," he said.

Tension up in Iloilo town

By David Isreel Siray
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) will tighten security in Ajuy, Iloilo town to keep the peace among the supporters of two mayoral candidates.

Ernesto Ordoñez Abiñete said election-related incidents "fill the (police) blotter owners of the Ilo town's police station."

Abiñete said the Comelec would deploy 80 personnel from the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to reinforce the 28-man police force of the town.

Only last month, 39 policemen from the Regional Mobile Group were sent to the town in the aftermath of the rituals between the supporters of reelectionist Mayor Rene Cordero and mayoral candidate Restituto Monguda, a retired police general.

Unicef, MILF to sign pact

COTABATO CITY—THE UNITED NATIONS Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will sign a joint commitment today in connection with the UN Days of Peace program.

Days of Peace, which is a program aimed at helping children caught in the middle of war, will be observed this month, in July and in December.

MILF Chair Ahmad Ibrahim and Dr Nicholas Alipui, Unicef country representative for the Philippines, will sign the joint communiqué.

Alipui Rodrigo, Unicef senior communications assistant, said the Days of Peace program seeks to put a stop to fighting in Mindanao to deliver essential services to children.

"This is spearheaded by Unicef to solicit participation and involvement of major stakeholders ...," Rodrigo told the Inquirer.

The services to be rendered include immunization, de-worming, vitamin A distribution, breastfeeding counseling, and birth registration, among others.

Rodrigo said the program seeks to cover at least 440 villages, mostly inhabited by the Moro people.

She said an estimated 50,000 people had been displaced, half of whom are children.

Both ups said the cessation cost of the conflict has been pegged at $2.6 to $3.3 billion.

Edwin G. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bautista
Bureau Chief Estrelyn L. Benedicto

Giant gorilla, a hero are Iloilo bets

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

THERE IS MUCH IN A NAME ESPECIALLY IN gaining name recall from voters, candidates running for local posts in Iloilo province have shown.

Vote for "Linda" as an Iloilo city councilor, for example, would help elect lawyer Antonio Libarnes.

Voters in the second congressional district of Iloilo who put "Bebot" as their congressional candidate would still have their votes counted for Iloilo Rep. Judy Syjuco.

Libarnes has registered the nickname of his wife Milalucas for nickname in his certificate of candidacy (COC), apparently to capitalize on his wife's popularity as a three-term councilor.

This is the same with Fabian who adopted the nickname of her husband, former congressman and lawyer "Defendor Tchaoteen and Hello Tchaoteen motherly theater general Augusto Syjuco.

Based on their COCs filed before the city and provincial Commission on Elections offices, candidates have adopted nicknames from terms of endearment and initials to name-generated nicknames that voters could write in ballots during the May 14 elections.

Among the nicknames seen are the popular Filipinovore name of voters over the "Inday" "Nay," "Nonoy" and "Imeong."

But other candidates prefer to be known as "JV," "b-b," "MM" and "DBS" aside from their legal names.

Voters for those names will be counted in favor of candidates who registered the names as their nicknames or "stage name" in their COCs filed before the Commission on Elections.

Election watchdog conditions to register new nicknames or stage name by which he or she is generally or popularly known in the locality that the candidate is running for a position made from being easy to remember, the nickname is also helpful if several candidates have similar first or last names.

But titles, such as "Sen," "Gov," "Doctor" or "Dimon," are not allowed, according to Comelec guidelines.

Priority

Only one candidate can adopt a particular nickname or a given name. But incumbent candidates will be given the priority in registering their nicknames and the nicknames their candidates will be required to register another nickname, and Jonathan Zapata's election assistant II at the Comelec office in Iloilo City.

The nicknames will be officially registered if no complaint is filed 10 days after the candidate has filed the COC.

Voters said many voters under the nicknames instead of the complete names of candidates in the ballot because it is usually shorter and easier to remember.

At least eight former and incumbent town mayors have adopted their nicknames in their nicknames for easier recall.

These include former Santa Barbara reporters and anchors Angelo Raspat, Dennis Gonzaga, Rodney Lorbanes, Alberto Celeste, Ronald Celeste, Emmanuel Cedric and John Sullano who are running for posts in the town of Iloilo. The is also the case with Passion Hamoraon, a former employee of Senator Defen, who is running for councilor of Igbaras town.

Many candidates have adopted the most common nicknames "Boy" to beat 26 candidates for councilor in Iloilo town from the nicknames.

Others like Felipe Bernal III, who is running for councilor in Carles town, made it sound easy by adopting the nickname "Baby Boy" but not as much as the Judge of Negrense town who is also known as "Cute" and former "Cowboy" mayor of Leganes town.

Many of the nicknames sounded too far from the candidates' real names like "Bagging" used by Imelda Tallesan, a candidate for councilor in San Joaquin town.

Some nicknames are plus with words referring to physical attributes like "Bandi" used by both brothers that of Leganes and Joel Delagan of Anilao and "Boy Tsinay" referring to Ramon Cajuri, pong of Leon town. The nickname means "heavy" in the dialect.

But it would be a tall order to match the nicknames of Cagayan Sanggunian who is running for councilor is Pasil City. He has chosen "Jabbag" the name of the seven-foot, 41-former basketball superstar.

Derogatory

There were some who were apparently not bothered by the derogatory connotation of their nicknames like "Buguy" used by Odie Amoroso of Dumangas town and "Mano" adopted by Andrea Barbara of Balasan. "Nancy" seems suffers in the dialect while "nancy" is Silaguman for deadend.

Apparently aware of the sensating Jeremiah Peralta, an independent candidate for councilor in Oton town, adopted the nickname "Pal," a local term for any brother-candidate for councilor in Sta. Barbara town, Ephin Perano chose his dumay and is also called "Mother."

But it doesn't hurt to sound heroic like Barabas Blake of Alimodian town who especially chose "Hard."

Pascual Blake of Dumangas chose a more unique name and is also known as "Omar Bukhaar."

But who would like to match Carmen Bedia, an independent candidate for councilor in Barotac Nuevo town?

His Autonomous Government can write "Bitay Kong" in their ballots and not end up voting for the 15-foot-favored giant gorilla who has appeared in at least three films.

CANDIDATES and political parties use catchy names such as those in posters nailed to the trees of Dumaguete City.

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The right place for disputed first Mass in Limasawa

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Bacolod City

A NEW TWIST IN AN OFTtalked about historical dispute again requires serious scrutiny from authorities.

On March 31, the 446th anniversary of the recorded First Mass in the Philippines in 1521 was commemorated in two ceremonies—Limasawa town in Southern Leyte and Butuan City on behalf of its old Barangay Duka-an.

The decades-old Limasawa vs Butuan dispute was officially settled in March 1996 when the National Historical Institute (NHI) ruled that Limasawa, not the nearby old port down the pre-Butuan group town persisting with their claim and perfecting unofficial ceremonies.

The NHI decision ignored another historical order by tacitly upholding the belief that The First Mass was held on the southeastern coast of Limasawa, in the vicinity of the present Barangay Magallanes.

Legacy

A legacy of this order, the new Historical Marker—an edifice made of bricks and polished concrete that was inaugurated two years ago—sits on top of a hill overlooking the Limasawa strait.

Vicente C. de Jesus, an independent scholar who strongly supports the Butuan claim, has criticized the NHI commission that backed into the issue for allegedly disregarding the testimony of a consul that implied a western site of the First Mass and for having conceded to Limasawa a 16th century chronicle.

The historian was Ginoo de Mella, a member of both the Magallan expedition in 1521 and the Villalobos expedition in 1543. He had dropped by Limasawa on both occasions. In 1543, he met again the same chief, presumably Rajah Kolambu, who received Magallanes in 1521.

De Mella's encounter had remained hidden in a Madrid archive for 373 years before it was found and published in 1920. It mentioned that the Magallanes fleet anchored in Bhasian at "a good harbor on its western side, and is inhabited."

AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION of the planting of the Christian cross in a Limasawa hillon March 31, 1521. (From the book "The Encounter" by Fr. Jose Kruano Borgazo, SVD, San Carlos Publications, 1985)

De Mella's claim a coincidence by a map made by Antonio Pigafetta, chronicler of the Magallan expedition, according to Jose Jones. The map is the Nancy Libri Bartolozzi-Yale codex is said to show a version in one of two hills facing the new southwest of the island.

The Pigafetta map in the Bartolozzi manuscript shows the route on the upper left near the sea. The lower hill, drawn in the middle of the land mass at the bottom of the map, does not have the cross symbol.

Ships' movement

A single omission in the popular Antero Robertson Blair collection of the Pigafetta account could give the First Mass event to western Limasawa. It said: "In the afternoon we went in the direction of the southwest to the dwelling of the king."

The literal reading the ships from their initial anchorage off the southeastern coast and rounding the island at the southernmost the southeastern tip, west of the narrowest curve fronting Barangay Tinasa, the oldest settlement and present town proper of Limasawa.

Both established movements of Magallan's ships would corroborate De Mella's account.

The locale had always believed that Tinasa was a seaport city of Tandia, the name of the legendary Bisayan queen who once ruled over nine of the five tribes of Rajah Buhaton.

But Fr. Pedro Salcedo, SDS, who had published two books that have the Limasawa claim, told this writer in a 1996 letter that Tandia was a suburb of the old Spanish capital of Seville, across the Guadalquivir River, to which traitor Antonio Magallan was enrolled in Henry IV in Barbosa.

Thus, it seem seems that it was Magallan himself who designated the name Tandia to the settlement in Limasawa.

Affirmatory proof

An aerial photograph of Limasawa Island shows the two prominent hills that affirm the landmarks on Pigafetta's map in the Bartolozzi manuscript. The hill on which Magallan and his crew erected a cross after the Easter Sunday Mass in 1521 was presumably the upper hill that had with a cross on the old map, and the one erected in Tinasa and commissioned by the present town proper from the south.

Perhaps now is the time for the NHI to reconsider issuing a complementary amendment to their verdict related to the First Mass being held in Limasawa. The supporting evidence strongly suggest that this event happened in the vicinity of the present Barangay Tinasa and not in Barangay Magallanes, and that the cross was erected on the hill overlooking Tinasa, and somehow near the present shore southeast of the island.

With the official correction, it is hoped that the 500th centennial of the Limasawa event in 2021, or 14 years from now, could be celebrated in its right place on the island.

ERWIN Sotto of Coca-Cola (above right) tries to secure possession against Ro'D 1's Ryan Bernardo as teammates Anthony Johnson (left) and Chester Takeda (center) look on. ARMANDO DIAZ

Bulls reclaim lead; Tigers whip Express

GAME 5 STANDINGS (Asian Games)
4:30 p.m. — Sta. Lucia vs. Alaska
6:30 p.m. — San Miguel Beer vs. Purefoods

By Mayong B. Castillo

IT'S NOT ONLY JAMES PENNY THAT WINS GAMES for Red Bull.

Saddled by silly fouls early, Penny spent a lot of time on the bench and watched his back teammates deliver when needed as Red Bull reclaimed the PBA Fiesta Cup lead with a convincing 102-93 victory over Talk N' Text last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Carlo Sharma scored 22 points and pulled down 14 rebounds and was just one of the many heads who chose where Red Bull's original go-to guy had to spend time on the bench en route to what would go down as his most unimpressive game in the tournament.

"The guys stepped up when James got into foul trouble," said rookie coach Leo Austria, now 3-1 since "Yeng Guiao's voluntary leave to concentrate on his reelection campaign as Pampanga vice governor.

Talk N' Text (measuring in to take the reins of the game and outing to outlast Rain, 77-72, following a 10-0 run, Red Bull turned to Larry Fonacier, who hit a big triple, and Sharma, who drilled two consecutive jumpers to give the Bulls an 84-74 spread on the way to a 7-2 end).

Cyrus Baguio scored 16 points, Leo Najorda and Jayjay Alfarosa had 12 while Beaumont finished with 10.

Yo Sullivan had 31 points but it still wasn't enough to prevent the Phone Pals from losing back-to-back games for the first time in the tournament and dropping to 3-3 overall.

More stories on A23 to 26

In the first game, Coca-Cola snapped a four-game slide, Surveyor after getting a scare in the endgame of a 123-111 victory over 66-21.

Anthony Johnson scored 15 of his 28 points in the fourth period and five Iloilo showed how deep the Coca-Cola bombsquad is as they turned in 22 as he recorded the Tigers rise to 4-2.

The victory was also the first for the Tigers since they celebrated trade with San Lazaro after the Holy Week.

John Arigo wound up with 23 to lead the Coca-Cola bench. Alex Calaunan, the center of that trade that also had 1998 MVP Kenneth Duremdes coming over, had 14 markers.

Meanwhile, Silvestre enlisted the services of former Powerhouse star Bob Novalez to take the place of the injured Charles Clark.

Tin scores

First Game

COCA-COLA (23)—Alfonso 28, Arigo 23, Calaunan 14, Sharma 14, Gabriel 13, Pam 12, Chatterjee 6, Asuncion 6, Arboleda 4, Sotto 0.

ILIGO (19)—Mao 19, Quesada 16, Bautista 16, Sarbia 14, Abrahan 8, Elizalde 7, Tamsi 7, Jao 5, Ramos 5, Dimaculangan 2, Jacinto 0.

Quarters: 28-25, 53-45, 80-66, 123-111

Second Game

RED BULL (93)—Penny 23, Baguio 16, Sharma 12, Najorda 12, Villanueva 12, Asaytono 10, Cruz 7, Pinto 4, Asistores 3, Valenzuela 3, Ingle 3, Yuson 2, Alvarez 0.

TALK N' TEXT (72)—Sullivan 31, Jones 11, Jazul 10, Hutchinson 12, Mendoza 2, Cruz 2, Pinto 4, Asistores 3, Valenzuela 3, Ingle 3, Yuson 2, Alvarez 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 40-32, 59-45, 102-93

CHR confirms reports errand boy behind Sulu massacre

By Veli Contreras

AN INFORMAL INVESTIGATION conducted by the Commission on Human Rights appears to confirm reports that a male minor, recruited "irregularly" as cell for Black Scorpion shooting rampage in Jolo early today in Sulu that left nine soldiers and a civilian dead.

Citing "failure of discipline" on the part of the infantry contingent posted in that camp, a CHR official in Manila yesterday reported that the agency had begun looking into the shooting because it apparently stemmed from a human rights violation.

"From what our Region II office in Zamboanga told me, that 'mother' (referred here) was having beauty cup as though in a hurry, and then told, 'Pumisi ka na pati (You've rough enough)," Commissioner Dominador Calamba II said.

The errand boy was "ridiculed" into thinking that he would soon be able to join the military if he passed the ordeal, Calamba said this inquiries.

Punishment

Calamba, a reservists colonel and the commissioner in charge of Mindanao, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines "should punish some people there, the officers concerned, for allowing this to happen."

Military conduct per se may not be the CHR's concern, "but I think we should be more disciplined than that," he said.

Calamba clarified that the CHR's regional office had only begun taking "a cursory look" at the shooting, pending a formal investigation through its core mission.

He said the commission was still awaiting the AFP report on the April 7 shooting that erupted inside the camp holding the Charlie Company of the 35th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Silangkum in Parang, Sulu.

On Wednesday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the report may be out in three days, or during the weekend.

Chief-of-Staff, Esperon already denied earlier media reports that a standing had precipitated the shooting, and that the slain soldiers were then having a drinking spree.

Satur says he's maintaining high profile for security reasons

From page A1

ued questioning the charge against him.

"The high technical mind-boggling undercurrents on his petition that there were defects in the charge against him, including the filing of only one complaint instead of 15 complaints for each of the supposed victims that were identified.

Other defects

The prosecution then amended the case, filing 14 other murder charges to remedy the defect.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, said the Ombudsman, legal trial courts should issue 24 more arrest warrants for Ocampo since it had issued only one warrant on the basis of the defective information.

Ocampo said that although the prosecution had filed additional murder charges to remedy a defect in the original charge, it failed to remedy the other defects.

"If the judge issues additional warrants, he would just be repeating his earlier mistakes," he said, adding that the judge, Ephrem Almeda, could be cited for contempt since there is a pending petition before the Supreme Court already questioning the said case.

Motions

Bayan Muna's Satur Cabanatan said the additional murder charges contained other defects. He instance, the prosecution failed to provide Ocampo with a copy of the supplemental affidavit which was the basis of the charges.

Cabanatan said that when the original murder charges was filed, Ocampo was not given a copy of the supplemental affidavit, which the Bayan Muna representative should have answered for before a resolution was issued.

Ocampo has filed a motion before the Lower Regional Trial Court to stop Almeda from acting on the government's motion to admit the amended information.

Positive effect

He has also asked the Supreme Court to stop the proceedings on his case because this could nullify whatever decision the high tribunal might issue on his petition.

Ocampo said there was a positive consequence of the government's seeming prosecution with him.

It made the public more aware about the party-list system which would benefit all of its participants.

According to Ocampo, the government is lowering the party-list system in case there's an attempt to impeach the President.

"They want to capture the party-list representation paraganggo ng (to control a possible impeachment," he said.

Survey: 9 out of 10 Pinoys support birth control

From page A1

areas—also said it was important, as did 72 percent in Mindanao and 71 percent in the Visayas.

Seventy-six percent in class D, 75 percent in class E and 73 percent in classes ABC also said it was important for a candidate to include the issue in his/her platform.

Meanwhile, 74 percent in Metro Manila, 79 percent in the rest of Luzon, 77 percent in Mindanao and 67 percent in Visayas said that candidates who are in favor of allocating budget for family planning "should be supported."

Seventy-seven percent in class E, 75 percent in class D and 69 percent in classes ABC also said that they would support candidates who favored such move.

On the other hand, the belief in the importance of family planning was shared across all areas (86 percent in the rest of Luzon, 92 percent in Metro Manila and in Visayas and 87 percent in Mindanao), as well as across socioeconomic classes (ABC (92 percent), D (91 percent) and E (92 percent).

Over it is 10 Filipino across all areas also said that government funding for modern methods of family planning is important—93 percent in the balance of Luzon, 98 percent in the capital, 87 percent in Visayas and 84 percent in Mindanao.

Ninety percent in class E, 89 percent in class D and 87 percent in class ABC also shared the sentiment.

Ken Bolivar, *Inquirer Research*, AFP

Monsod urges probe of 'selling' of party-list accreditation

From page A1

tacked" through its votes.

"I think it's time to go back and review it all over," said Monsod, who is now actively involved with groups advocating political and electoral reforms.

The Comelec should conduct a serious investigation, for party-list organizations which managed to get themselves registered in 2006 through the "barkadas" system should also come out now as the problem can be resolved, he said.

90 groups accredited

"I think the (party-list) system has gotten a bit out of control. That's why it is important to go back to the fundamentals and ask, 'why was the party-list [system] set up in the first place and who should every group that says it is marginalized be registered as a party-list?'" Monsod said.

Monsod said the party-list system was supposed to be "a window or vent" to see if the parliamentary system worked.

But now "there is a lot of confusion on what the party-list is," he said.

According to Monsod, in the first nine years of the implementation of the Party-List System Law or RA 7941, half of the 50 seats for party-list groups in the House of Representatives was reserved for the marginalized sectors, which the Commission identified.

But now there are national, regional and sectoral party-list groups. The system is no longer limited to marginalized sectors, he said.

"Voters only have one vote in the party-list. Only one. And now they will be choosing one out of 99 or more party-list groups," Monsod said.

Of the 250 House seats, 20 percent, or a total of 50, is reserved for the party-list groups.

But with the limit threshold of 2 percent of the votes plus the limit of three seats for every party-list group, the 20 percent will never be obtained, said Monsod.

The Comelec has accredited some 90 party-list organizations to participate in the May 14 midterm elections.

But the Mikesaya party-list group and another one watchdog have alleged that a number of those Comelec-accredited groups were actually government fronts.

They have demanded that the names of individual party-list nominees be published.

Voting based on sector

The Comelec has refused, arguing that this would defeat the purpose of the system which is that voters choose the party-list group to vote for based on the particular sector they feel ought to be represented in Congress, and not by who will represent that sector.

Saturday an election watchdog reiterated its earlier published "operation" allegedly working for Mikesaya, but been dropping the name of Virgilio Garcillano while peddling party-list accreditation and nominations for the May elections.

Rising rates

The man demanded a fee of P1.2 million in exchange for the accreditation of a taxpayer's group applying for party-list status during a meeting in mid-March, said Antonio Llava, who heads the Bantay Republic for his group.

Llava said the operator increased the amount from the P1 million he originally demanded, to P1.2 million to help raise funds for the candidacy of Garcillano, who is running for a congressional seat in the first district of Bukidnon.

Garcillano, a former councilor of the Commission on Elections, is accused of manipulating the results of the 2004 elections to supposedly ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The man said Garcillano needed the P1 million because he was running as an independent. The P500,000 was to go to the Llava.

Bantay Republic Act No. 7941 is an election watchdog group that monitors the implementation of the Party-List System Act that created the party-list system.

Llava said Garcillano might not even be involved in the matter.

"For all we know, the man was only using his name to get money from party-list groups," he said.

Llava earlier claimed that a group of "big-time fixers" claiming to have connections in the Comelec and the Malacañang Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) were engaged in the selling of party-list slots.

Danton Remoto, an Ateneo de Manila University professor who heads the disqualified Ang Ladlad party-list group, claimed on Thursday that his group had been offered accreditation if they paid a hefty sum.

Based on Llava's and Remoto's accounts, the hefftey price ranges from a low of P100,000 to a high of P10 million. The first time on the deadline for the submission of nominations approached.

Llava said he had met with two of the alleged fixers whose names he had given to the Inquirer. He described the first one as a "truly guilty" man who introduced himself as a director of the DOI.

The fixers

The second man used to be a aide of the President. His group once lobbied information concerning alleged irregularities in a government project, which became one of the biggest controversies involving the administration.

Llava said he had met the first "fixer" at least three times while pretending to be negotiating for a party-list group seeking accreditation.

A computer affidavit identified with Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, had signed amongst the first meeting, he claimed.

At the second meeting in mid-March, he said the operator mentioned the name of Garcillano as an alleged beneficiary of the earlier.

The meeting, which lasted for around 15 minutes, was held at the Chowking restaurant near the Comelec office in Intramuros.

Elisa Tiglao; 93

ELISA CRUZ TIGLAO, 93, MOTHER of Philippine Ambassador to Greece Magdevis D. Tiglao, died yesterday morning (April 13). The wake will be at Arlington Memorial Chapels in Kamuning Avenue, Quezon City until Sunday.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 17 at noon at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

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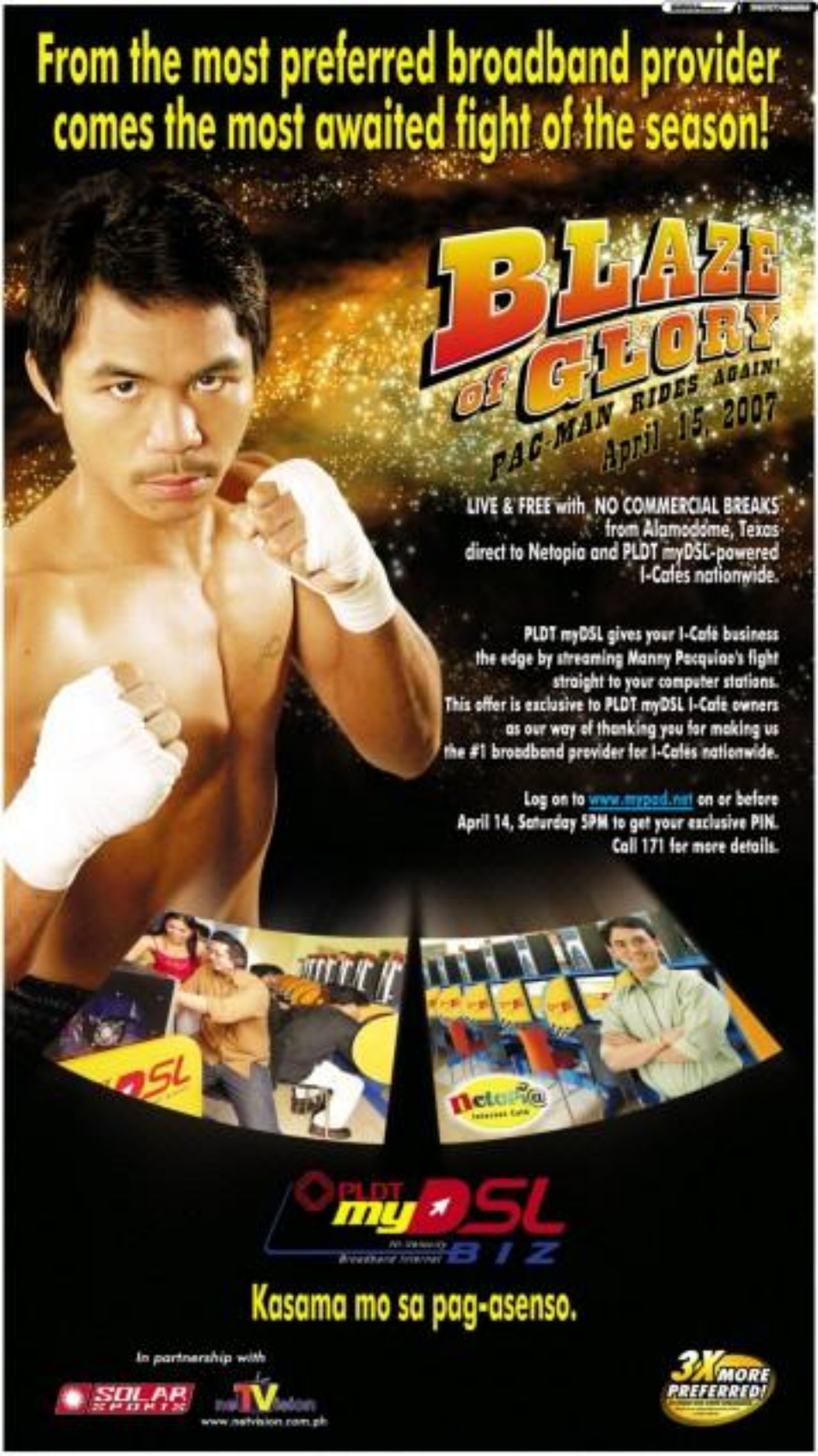

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Suspects in Antipolo dog fight released

Prosecutor says evidence vs 14 accused not sufficient

By Kristine L. Alave

FOURTEEN SUSPECTS CHARGED WITH animal cruelty and illegal gambling for their alleged involvement in a dog fight in Antipolo City have been released.

An animal rights group expressed outrage over the decision of the Antipolo City Prosecutor's Office to let the suspects go.

In an April 2 decision, Antipolo City Assistant Prosecutor Gerasmo Sampayo said there was a lack of sufficient evidence against the suspects who were arrested during a raid at a cockpit in the city.

Sampayo said no veterinarian had issued an affidavit to support the allegation that the two pitbulls overlooked by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were used in a dog fight. He added that the police did not present proof that the suspects were involved in illegal gambling.

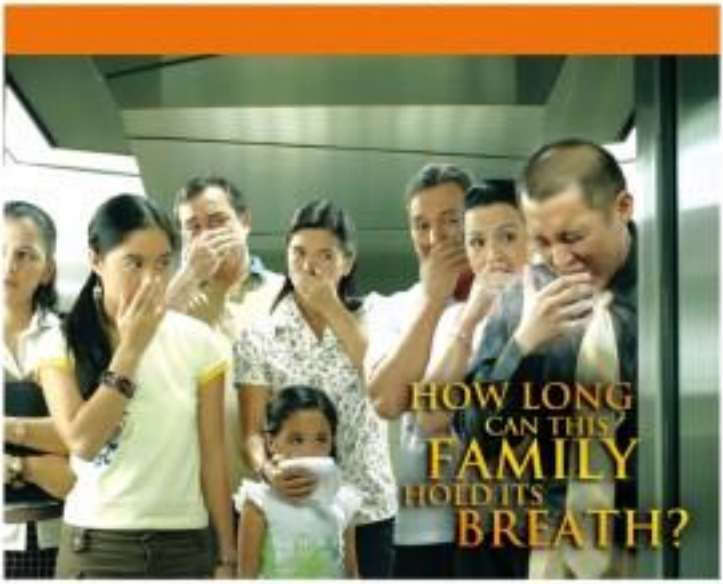
The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) decried Sampayo's decision, saying the footage they presented showed a dog fight in progress. The organization said it might file administrative charges against the prosecutor. PAWS also feared that the release of the suspects would lead to the dismissal of the cases.

On the evening of March 31, acting on a tip from PAWS, CIDG agents led by Senior Insp. Antonio V. Peddlle merienl the Bayanihan Cockpit Arena in Sitio Kanlaksan, Barangay Inarawan.

They arrested 14 people, including the alleged mastermind of the dog fight, Danny Tan Ng sore, three of Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Also arrested were Ramon Dimitlan, Jaliel de Leon, Ilden Villaseca, Eric Fernandez, Jay Francisco, Allan Lim Jr., Jerry Gutierrez, Mark Wesley Silva Bagtas Jr., and Ronie Portuguez.

Police also arrested three Thai nationals who were identified as Kittiya Phongmung Boonyang, Timothy Aaref Dharmajiva, and Phuvanart Jinda Siratchawee. All three left the country last week.



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BUONG PAMILYA MAGPABAKUNA!

Mall raids yield fake brand labels

By Rancel W. Domingo

EIGHT MILLION PESOS WORTH OF fake Louis Vuitton items and 34 million worth of lacoste apparel knockoffs were seized in recent separate raids that covered established malls like Harrison Plaza in Manila and Market Market in Bonifacio Global City.

Senior Supt. Noel Adriano Reyes, who led the raiding team from the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, expressed concern about pirated goods being sold openly inside large shopping malls.

"This is not helping the government's efforts to have the country removed from the US Trade Representative's Office's watch list," Reyes said in a statement. He was referring to a special list the United States government keeps on countries where there is rampant violation of intellectual property rights.

The IACEC had "downgraded" the Philippines standing to a regular "watch list" after including the country in a "priority watch list" in the previous three years.

Reyes said the newly created CIDG Anti-Terrorism Task Force directed the operation dubbed "Oplan Mega Shoppers" in Harrison Plaza where 17 stalls yielded Louis Vuitton knockoffs and on Kinabot Kinabot where seven stalls were caught selling fake Lacoste goods.

The PNP is a member agency of the Republic Committee for Intellectual Property Rights.

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4-day hostage situation seminar for policemen ends

By Allison W. Lopez

NOT TO WORRY, POLES.

Another hostage-taking incident took place yesterday morning, but this time, it was just a drill for Manila policemen undergoing seminars on dealing with the scenario.

A highlight of the four-day exercise that began Tuesday, the "hostage" exercise was made so police could apply what they had learned at the seminar. He said the participants immediately organized a crisis committee and appointed a general commander who ordered his men to cordon off the area.

"The toughest here's a negotiating with the hostage takers, handling of the crowd and the management of media," said Nhin, adding that the ground commander should be "visible" and must take charge.

The "hostage-takers" demanded food, water, money and a chance to speak with Mayor Lito Atienza, but only the first two demands were given.

"There are negotiable and non-negotiable issues. There are things we can give — we call it a concession...which we can use in exchange for the hostages or information," said Nhin.

The "negotiations" ended around 1:35 p.m., with the rescuers of the two best, a second scenario involving a gunman who threatened to jump off the building was also staged.

When was the drill negotiator of the March 10 incident involving 26 children hostaged by day care owner Amanda Dizon. Though the incident ended in the victims' safe release, Manila police have declared that no one should be allowed to enter the hostage area, not even high-ranking politicians or media persons. "They can speak with the hostage takers, but they cannot go inside," he said.

Wayward truck hits MRT post, causes traffic jam on SLEx

By DJ Yap

TRAFFIC SLOWED DOWN TO A CRAWL ON the southbound lane of Edsa for hours yesterday after a wayward truck crashed into a Metro Rail Transit post near the Magallanes interchange in Makati City.

The ensuing traffic jam extended from the site of the accident all the way to Timog Avenue in Quezon City, traffic personnel said.

Motorists on their way to the South Luzon Expressway had to squeeze into a single lane on Edsa because the dump truck had blocked the other three lanes.

The truck, bearing plate number CTS-245, rammed into a concrete barrier of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority just before it crashed toward the MRT post, the police said.

The driver was identified as Golez Amiel Jones, 40. He told investigators that he was trying to avoid another vehicle which sped past him when the mishap occurred at 5:25 a.m.

In a report, PO3 Christopher Milhora said one person, who was not immediately identified, was hurt in the incident but he did not say how the victim sustained the injury. Milhora could not be reached in the Makati traffic enforcement office yesterday for more details.

MMDA personnel took hours to tow the truck from the highway. A Metrobank operational manager, the towing crew members behind the truck, which was carrying muddy sand, of its customer firm. At 9:25 a.m., MMDA personnel finally managed to tow the truck toward Don Chino Roces Avenue, the operator said.

MetroBriefs

Golez guest candidate in Bernabe slate

MUNTINLUPA City: Pinde Golez: rules is up for reelection, has accepted a slot as "guest candidate" in the official slate of incumbent Mayor Nonoy Bernabe in the mayor, who belongs to the administration party, welcomed Golez, an independent, to his bid at a press conference yesterday. "You state recognizes the outstanding qualities of Representative Golez," Bernabe said in a statement. "We have worked together before with very good results and I don't see why we cannot do this again. Together, we can do more." Golez said he looked forward to working with Bernabe. "Pinoy ako dapat ang drug and delinquency and are committed to do our best to serve our constituents," he said in a statement. Golez is seeking a second term as representative of the city's second district. Previously identified with the administration, the congressman had a falling out with the party after he supported moves to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005. Another incumbent, Rep. Ed Zamba, is running in Bernabe's first district.

CJ Yap

Shabu delivery intercepted by QC police

What I should have been a routine checkpoint operation of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) yielded some P1.05-000 worth of shabu, cleverly hidden inside a bag of baby diapers, resulted here last weekend in the arrest of two suspected drug peddlers. The QCPD Director Dr. Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula said Jerry Lemon Bandalaan, 29, a native of Bataan, Magsaysaysan, and one more resulting in Ingang City, were busted when he was accosted by Mobile Patrol Unit operatives. His companion, Tommy Mercado, was able to escape. Gatdula said Bandalaan, who was allegedly high on drugs at the time — and also very nervous — had to be brought to the Batasan's Memorial Medical Center for treatment when he turned. At the hospital, police discovered Bandalaan was carrying 200 grams of shabu inside two transparent tin plastic bags concealed in the diaper bag. Gatdula said the suspect had delivered up the drugs from a source in Ingang City. Commonwealth Avenue. The two were about to make a delivery when they were intercepted.

Jeannette Andrade

Cement pot and Zen garden workshop

LUARS coordinator project for youth this summer by taking workshops on cement pot and waterfall and Zen garden making offered by Bahaya sa Pilipinas Foundation Inc. The pot-making workshop will be held April 19 -22, from 1 to 6 p.m. Some vacancies or day pass that take weeks to finish, cement pots can be made only in two to three days. The waterfall and Zen garden workshop, which is considered good Feng Shui, will be held April 28-29, also from 1 to 6 p.m. All materials will be provided, as well as snacks, handouts and certificates. For details, call 8586610, 7882564, 4262475 or 09189659302.

Police don't go after car thieves

CARNAPPERS AND CAR THEFTS ARE rampant because the police don't do anything to stop them at the source.

There's a place in Bonifacio where stolen cars are taken before they are sold to ready buyers: Barangay Cupidunan, Apalit.

Stolen cars are first submerged in the Apalit River to be hidden for a day or two. They are then pulled up by cranes at night and stripped of parts which are then sold to stores in Dagupan.

Some of the spare parts end up as vehicle spare parts store in Balanga, Quezon City.

My sources said that some members of the police Traffic Management Group (TMG) are protecting the syndicate's activities in Apalit.

Pampanga has replaced Cavite as the dumping ground of stolen cars. Cavite became notorious in the 1990s and '00s because it was reportedly the haven of smugglers and car thieves.

The TMG, which is charged with making our national highways safe and going after car thieves, apparently is not doing its job.

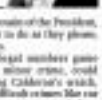
The TMG doesn't have to go anywhere to look for stolen vehicles. All it has to do is have driver to scour for stolen vehicles in the depths of the Apalit River.

The TMG is not doing its job probably because the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Oscar Calderon, has set cracked his whip on big-time criminals.

My sources in Camp Crame say Calderon hasn't accomplished much in crime-fighting because of his "live and let live" style of management.

On Target

Ramon Tulfo



Calderon, a former cousin of the President, leaves his subordinates to do as they please, according to my sources.

If "jueteng," the illegal numbers game and a comparatively minor crime, could not be stopped during Calderon's watch, how can he stop the more serious crimes like car theft, kidnapping for ransom, and drug trafficking.

Incidentally, Quezon City, home of the PNP national headquarters, is still the country's "car theft capital."

The more carjackings and car thefts take place under the very nose of the PNP chief.

* * *

The Office of the Ombudsman should listen to Sen. in suspending Assistant Director Nestor Valeroso of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) after the Supreme Court ordered recently it had the power to suspend him.

Valeroso questioned before the high court the Ombudsman's authority to suspend government employees.

Charged with manipulated wealth, Valeroso was even promoted to the third highest rank in the BIR while he was being investigated by the Ombudsman.

Suicide bomb attack in Iraq parliament kills 8

BAGHDAD — BAGHDAD — PARLIAMENT was set to shoot in special session on Saturday to condemn a suicide bombing in the building a day earlier that demonstrated the ability of militants to strike anywhere and anytime.

The US military said eight people were killed and more than 20 wounded when a suicide bomber slipped through multiple checkpoints and blew himself up amid lawmakers hurrying lunch.

Interior Ministry spokesperson Brig Gen Abdul-Kareem Khalaf had a much lower toll, saying only two people had died, a man and a woman, while 20 were wounded. A parliamentary official said the casualties were lawmakers.

It was the worst breach of security in the heavily fortified Green Zone that houses parliament, government offices, the US Embassy and Saddam Hussein's former palaces. The compound was set up after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"There has to be a revision in the security apparatus," Khalaf told Reuters.

Just like the security apparatus broke their plans, the criminals broke their own plans, and they were here from ranks here and there too," a Reuters journalist said there was massive security around the parliament, housed in a former conference center, for the special session on Friday morning, which is a holiday in Muslim Iraq and a day for praying. There were tense Iraqi police backed up by US troops.

An aide to parliament Speaker Mahmoud Mashhadani said he had called for the special session to start at 11 a.m. and was expected to condemn the blast. But there was little sign at the parliament that the meeting would begin at that time.

The attack defied a new month-old US-Iraqi crackdown in the city that has put tens of thousands of troops on the street to curb sectarian violence between majority Shiites and minority Sunni Arabs who were dominant under Saddam.

The operation has succeeded in reducing the number of targeted killings, but US and Iraqi commanders have found car and suicide bombers much harder to stop.

"Those who are implementing the security plan are now faced with a dangerous challenge," said Saleem Abdullah, a lawmaker with the Sunni Iraqi Front, the biggest Sunni political bloc in parliament.

"If it was possible to reach this [building], then it is possible for them to reach other institutions in the same area."

Nearly a dozen mortars were launched, going on Friday how explosives were smuggled into one of the most secure areas of the Green Zone.

The explosive would have had to pass through an outer checkpoint manned by US and Iraqi troops and multiple inner checkpoints patrolled by security contractors and foreign troops that are part of the US deployment.

The worse of security procedures will likely look at the special passes given to some VIPs and their bodyguards that allow them to pass into the parliament without being searched.

Entry into the conference center is restricted to accredited parliamentary staff, lawmakers, security guards and journalists.

Access to the cybercity itself is restricted to lawmakers, police and military staff. Reuters

A NIGHT AT A CHINESE THEATER

A performer dances at an evening party in Xi'anmu, in eastern China's Hubei province in photo taken April 11.

Study identifies dinosaur protein

IN A POTENTIAL CRACK TO EXIGHT unattainable, scientists have recovered and identified proteins in a bone of a well-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex that lived and died and was fossilized 68 million years ago.

The scientists say the success, with advanced research techniques, opens the door for the first time to the exploration of molecular level relationships of extinct animals, instead of just relying on their skeletal remains.

Dinosaur fossil hunters are planning new expeditions this summer to search wide and deep for more specimens to provide candidates for similar tests. A few large dinosaur bones already in laboratories may be examined for surviving traces of organic matter.

The earliest previously identified ancient proteins were from mammoths that died about 300,000 years ago. The oldest confirmed samples of DNA, a more direct bearer of information of molecular evolution, but more degradable, have come from Archaeobotrids that lived 30,000 to 50,000 years ago. The extraction of DNA would be necessary to confirm in dinosaur genetics and for doing experiments.

The announcement studies of the Tyrannosaurus, the ancient facts said, appeared now evidence of a link between dinosaurs and birds, a widely held but contentious hypothesis. Three of the researchers unearthed protein sequences were closely related to chickens. ANY

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of [illegible] City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

NAME OF THE PROJECT: [illegible]
PROJECT LOCATION: [illegible]

LOT	DESCRIPTION	ABC (Php)
1	[illegible]	[illegible]

The Invitation to Bid is available to all interested

BAC Activities	DATE and TIME	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	April 16-20, 2007	BAC Secretariat, Schools Office
Pre-bid Conference	April 20, 2007 - 1:30 PM	BAC Secretariat, Schools Office
Receipt and Opening of Bids	May 15, 2007 - 10 AM	BAC Secretariat, Schools Office

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, DepED Division of [illegible] City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] in the form of Treasury Warrant Payable [illegible]

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Government Bidding Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Interested bidders are advised to visit the bulletin board of the Division and/or go to www.[illegible].gov.ph or call DepED Division of [illegible] at [illegible] for more information.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process, and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) LAWRENCIO LLAGAS
BAC Chairperson

(PH) April 14, 2007

US Senate probe panel seeks missing White House records

WASHINGTON — A US CONGRESSional panel investigating the firing of eight federal prosecutors unfolded a new dimension Thursday that could take the White House into the shared morass.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, challenged the White House assertion saying, "I don't believe that."

"It's not a question of it would be helping him. It's a matter they don't want to interview," said Leahy. He joined the panel's top Republican, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, in asking White House counsel Fred Fielding for a swift probe into the matter.

They said Congress would also investigate.

"We are ready up, and we're trying to fix it," said White House spokesperson Dana Perino. She said she had received no indication the White House broke the law.

But Rep. Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, said it may have violated the Presidential Records Act, which requires an administration to assure its decisions and deliberations are "adequately documented" and preserved.

Waxman, chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote federal agencies, asking them to keep any e-mails they have that were received from or sent to the White House via Republican National Committee e-mail accounts.

The White House said on Wednesday some of its staff, including President George W. Bush's political adviser, Karl Rove, were using e-mail messages on official business on RNC accounts, and some may have wrongly been deleted.

It also said some of the e-mails may have dealt with the firing of eight of the country's 93 US attorneys last year. Reuters

dti

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Development and Implementation of the Philippine Business Registry System

The Philippine Business Registry (PBR) is a new service initiative of the Business Liaison Office (BLO) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). It is envisioned to be a one-stop shop for business registration and licensing requirements at the national level, as well as a knowledge management base for various statistical and analytical data on business registration.

In its initial stage, the PBR will be a national network with facilities in [illegible] and [illegible] to provide business registration and facilitation services, issuing government agencies, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
2. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) bureaus particularly the following:
   a) Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP);
   b) Bureau of Domestic Trade (BDT);
   c) Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP);
   d) Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED);
   e) Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (BMSME);
   f) Intellectual Property Office (IPO).
3. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);
4. Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
5. Social Security System (SSS);
6. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth);
7. Pag-IBIG Fund;
8. Local Government Units (LGUs); and
9. Other government agencies and instrumentalities as may be required by law or by the BLO.

1. The DTI-[illegible] for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from interested bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing in the process of [illegible] provider consortium to develop, implement, operate and maintain the Philippine Business Registry System. The LOIs shall be received on the 15th day of [illegible] at the DTI-[illegible] Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DTI Main Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and not later than 2:00 p.m. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for eligibility shall be composed of a [illegible] Bids. The BAC for the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation and post-qualification of bids shall be the same as the BAC for the opening of Bidding documents on [illegible] 2007, 9:00 a.m., at the same conference room, 3rd Floor, DTI Main Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Late bids shall not be accepted.

2. Interested bidders may obtain their respective LOIs from the BAC Secretariat, upon submission of a letter of intent signed by the authorized representative with the payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] in the form of Treasury Warrant Payable to [illegible] Inc. The LOI shall be issued only to prospective bidders who have submitted the letter of intent and paid the non-refundable fee. The criteria and rating system for short listing shall be:

   2.1 Applicable experience of the consortium and of consortium members in [illegible] activities, particularly in the Philippines, with a minimum of [illegible] years of experience in the particular activity and including the name, place and nature of the [illegible] activities undertaken;

   2.2 Qualifications of key technical personnel who are proposed to be assigned to the project in an advisory and consultancy or the implementing [illegible]; and

   2.3 Current combined assets in capital in [illegible].

3. A bidder's combined assets in capital must not be less than [illegible] and must have a [illegible] rating before [illegible].

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the [illegible] of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether natural or juridical persons, or any combination thereof, duly licensed and authorized to engage in the business of the [illegible] as required under the [illegible] Implementing Rules and Regulations. Bidders who are disqualified or short listed during the pre-qualification stage may not participate in the bidding.

5. The PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE and budget data using the Quality Cost Based Consultant Selection (QCBS) for the [illegible].

6. Interested bidders may refer to the [illegible] for the Philippine Business Registry System.

7. The contract shall be completed within [illegible] months.

8. The DTI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare the bidding process, or not award the contract to any bidder and to waive any defect therein, consistent with the [illegible] of the [illegible].

[illegible]
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3F Supreme Court Building
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. [illegible]
[illegible]
www.[illegible].gov.ph

Atty. [illegible]
BAC Chairperson

(PH) April 14, 2007

CDC urges a change in antibiotics for gonorrhea

THE RATES OF DRUG-RESISTANT GONORrhea in the United States have increased so greatly in the last few years that doctors should soon treat the infection with a different class of antibiotics, the last line of defense for the sexually transmitted disease, officials said Thursday.

The percentage of drug-resistant gonorrhea cases among heterosexual men jumped, to 6.1 percent in 2006 compared with 0.6 percent in 2001, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Standard monitoring of gonorrhea cases is conducted among men who go to STD clinics. New data from such sites in 26 cities show that some of the most common gonorrhea-causing bacteria could run for use reached 26 percent in Philadelphia and more than 20 percent in Honolulu and four sites in California, Long Beach, Orange County, San Diego and San Francisco.

Among gay men, the rates of the bacterial infection jumped to 36 percent in the first half of 2006 from 1.6 percent in 2001.

For 34 years, most cases of gonorrhea have been treated with a class of antibiotics known as fluoroquinolones. Now, officials at the center are urging doctors to prescribe drugs in the cephalosporin class.

The new antibiotics for gonorrhea are in the pipeline, officials of the center told reporters by telephone.

"Now we are down to one class of drugs," said Dr. Gail Bolan, an expert in sexually transmitted diseases at the California Department of Health Services. "That's a very perilous situation to be in."

Bolan is a spokesperson for the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a professional organization.

New York Times News Service

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive offer for negotiation on May 2, 2007, 10:00 am, 4th Floor PGH Conference Room, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the sale of the following properties on CASH BASIS:

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
R. Castillo St., Ayala, Davao City	1,423 sq m. parcel of land with [illegible] residential building; property is [illegible] covered with TCT [illegible]	P 14,933,000.00
Governor St., Barangay III, Kabankalan City	1,010 sq m. adjoining 2 parcels of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible] and [illegible]	1,696,800.00
Mandaue St., Barangay Poblacion, Lipata City	600 sq m. lot with TCT No. [illegible]	24,336,000.00
Roxas cor. Gonzales Extension, Mabini City, Bulacan	888 sq m. adjoining 3 parcel of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible] and [illegible]	14,652,000.00
Johnston Subdivision, San Jose, San Fernando City	1,440 sq m. adjoining 2 parcel of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible] and [illegible]	8,160,000.00
Kapatalan Drive cor. Jupiter St., Mercedes Village, Barangay Potong, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	[illegible]	16,200,000.00
Bona Vista, Santiago City	2,241 sq m. adjoining parcel of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible]	2,736,000.00
Barangay Magsaysay, Polomolok, South Cotabato	1,000 sq m. adjoining parcel of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible]	3,911,000.00
Lot [illegible], Cebu Valley Village, Barangay Cogon, Cebu City, Cebu	1,012 sq m. lot with TCT No. [illegible]	1,822,000.00
Ayala Highway, Barangay Kalumpang, North Lake City	3,150 sq m. adjoining parcel of lots covered with TCT Nos. [illegible]	17,955,000.00

BUYERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the negotiation.
2. To submit offer on the BID / PRE-Statement, DBP Head Office forms, or their equivalent.
3. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK, THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone number [illegible] local [illegible]

PROPERTY & SECURITY MANAGEMENT

(PH) April 14, 2007

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casino

WB chief under fire for gf's hefty pay

WOLFOWITZ: Bank President Paul Wolfowitz in a Sept. 14, 2004 photo.

WASHINGTON—WORLD Bank President Paul Wolfowitz admitted on Thursday he made a mistake and apologized for his handling of the promotion and pay increase of his girlfriend and staffer Shaha Riza.

Wolfowitz defended an agreement he signed off that gave Riza a promotion with a pay raise before the way assigned to the State Department to lead a potential politically sensitive.

"I proposed to the board that their established rules should not judge whether the agreement reached was a reasonable outcome," Wolfowitz said in a statement he read at various conferences before meetings of finance ministers in Washington this weekend.

"I will accept any remedies they propose," he said. "In hindsight, I wish I had treated my original contracts and kept myself out of the negotiations. I made a mistake for which I am sorry."

The bank's board, which includes representatives from the bank's 185 member countries, met on the matter on Thursday, focusing on whether Wolfowitz broke the rules on Riza's promotion and violated staff rules.

In a new move, Washington also supported the board in waiving "in the interest of transparency" to release all communications between him and board officials on the issue.

As the board began its deliberations, the bank's employee representative group called for Wolfowitz's resignation.

"The problem most acknowledge that he couldn't have remained, missed the integrity and effectiveness of the World Bank Group and has damaged the staff's trust in his leadership," according to one of the materials presented at the meeting by staff association chair Alexis Crow and obtained by Reuters.

"We must act honorably and resign," she said. Reuters

RIZA

Toll in Qaida suicide bombings in Algeria rises to 33

PARIS—THE DEATH TOLL FROM Wednesday's suicide bombings in Algeria rose by 10 on Thursday to 33, and the police mounted a nationwide manhunt for those responsible for the attacks.

Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, North Africa's most active terrorist group, claimed responsibility for the two bombings, which were directed at the main government building in Algiers and at a police station east of the city. More than 200 people were wounded.

It could have been even worse. The police found a third bomb in a Mercedes-Benz sedan, near the home of Ali Tounsi, director general of the national police, according to witnesses and local press reports. The bomb was defused.

It was apparently one of the bombs referred to as Islamist vehicles on Wednesday, which claimed that a third suicide bomber was attacking the Algerian headquarters of Interpol. Interpol links police forces in 180 countries around the world.

The police set up checkpoints around Algiers and increased patrols on the roadside, but the search there had already darkened. The French-language daily newspaper Liberte wrote that the attacks "have reduced the chances of a voluntary or believed lives were sustained."

Algeria has only recently emerged from the shadows of a brutal civil war set off when the military canceled elections in 1992 that a Islamic-minded Islamic party was poised to win. The war, which waned down after a government amnesty in 1999, was marked by horrific massacres of men, women and children—killing threats was common—that left deep scars in the national psyche.

A committed core of Islamic fighters up the fight, but most Algerians were confident that the movement had been defeated, as repressive government pronouncements claimed. AFP

Broker tells Israel that Syria serious about forging peace deal

JERUSALEM—A TURKISH-MEDIated peace adviser, Ibrahim Suleiman, spoke to each ordinary appointment before a parliamentary committee here on Thursday to convey a message to Israel's generally skeptical leadership that Syria is serious about reaching a negotiated agreement.

Suleiman has had unofficial contacts with Israeli officials since 1991. After meeting with Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defense committee, he told reporters that he believed that peace between Israel and Syria could be achieved within six months if officials from both sides were to "sit down together."

He said opened a new level of diplomacy Israel about the possibility of negotiations with the Syrian president Bashar Assad.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel has rejected Assad's recent peace overtures, saying first Damascus must halt its ongoing support and safe haven to terrorist organizations, and prevent the flow of weapons across the Syrian border to the Lebanese militant organization, Hezbollah. Olmert's preconditions were reiterated unchanged.

Since 2004 until 1998, Suleiman, a former academic and retired businessman, participated in unofficial talks with Abu Lal, a former director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Eight rounds of dialogue have taken place between the two, culminated in an unofficial blueprint for an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. AFP

THE HANDS DON'T SAY EVERYTHING Melanie Kahan presents her wonder April 10 during the Ms. Media Hands competition at the annual Merrie Festival in Hilo, Hawaii.

Japan House paves way for Cha-cha

TOKYO—JAPAN'S HOUSE OF Representatives on Friday passed a constitutional bill that paves the way to start revising the pacifist constitution imposed after World War II.

The lower house took a binding vote to approve the bill, which would establish a national referendum law governing the constitution.

Conservative Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's coalition holds an overwhelming majority in the lower house and easily passed the bill, which will now go to the upper house where its approval is also likely.

Abe, who has vowed to ensure a more assertive Japan, has made revising the pacifist constitution, imposed by US occupiers in 1947, the key issue in his political agenda.

The referendum would need to be a new law itself, but would establish measures to revise Japan's current constitution it without its born to accomplish the legislation.

Abe, who is facing waning poll numbers, wants the referendum bill to become law during the current parliamentary session scheduled to run until June 23. Japan holds elections for the upper house in July.

The main opposition Democratic Party, which holds 112 seats in the 480-member lower house, agrees in principle to revising the constitution.

But it accountability submitted an alternative bill calling for referendum a wider scope of topics, not only constitutional reform.

The constitution bars Japan from going or even threatening to use force as a way to settle international disputes, although the country says the rule by calling its troops "Self-Defense Forces." AFP

Early polls in Ukraine in the offing

KIEV—KIEV IS A CONFUSING mess, opposed Thursday as Ukraine's power struggle intensified.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych signaled he was ready to participate in early elections, called for by his political rival President Viktor Yushchenko.

In what appeared to be a major concession, Yanukovych said he could take part in an election even if the constitutional court, which is due to rule Monday, rules that his candidacy is illegitimate.

"If the court rules the decree was unconstitutional, elections are possible. I'll be the participant in the political process, agree," he told journalists.

The crisis, now in its second week, began when the pro-Western Yushchenko named a decree dissolving parliament and calling for snap elections.

Yanukovych's forces reacted after they were asked to refused to comply, resulting in constitutional paralysis.

According to Yushchenko's decree, new parliamentary elections had to take place by May 27, although Yanukovych and Parliament that the decree might be suspended to postpone the elections to June date. AFP

2005 quake in Indonesia caused massive coral death, experts say

PHOTO taken in March, 2005 shows bleaching and dead coral in the Andaman mainland.

BANGKOK, THAILAND—A 2005 earthquake off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island caused more than 15.9 (two) out of the water, causing one of the biggest cases of coral deaths recorded, scientists said Friday.

Researchers surveying the island of Simeulue in March found that more corals along its 300-kilometer, 1,000-mile-1 perimeter had been partly raised out of the water by the 2005 earthquake, with the exposed parts dying off. It is believed to be the first time that scientist have documented the impacts on corals from a quake.

"The scale of it was quite extraordinary," said Andrew Baird, of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef, who took part in the survey with scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society. "Exposed corals were everywhere."

Baird, who said their findings would be published later this year, said exposed corals recorded from a few meters from shore to as far as 300 meters (1,640 feet). "Some species were dying in 100 percent of one or some sites, and different species were dominants the shallow reef," he said.

More than 900 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless in the 8.7 magnitude earthquake that hit Nias, Banyak and Simeulue islands off the coast of Sumatra. The quake came three months after the 2004 tsunami, which left 220,000 people in a dozen nations (Asian countries) dead or missing.

Australian reef expert Clive Wilkinson, who did not take part in the survey, said the damage to the reefs on Simeulue was to be expected, given the amount of uplift that occurred and the severity of the quake.

"I don't think it's anything new. This has been going on for millions of years," Wilkinson said. "It's part of natural reef evolution. There are many islands in the Pacific that are actually uplifted coral reefs. It's just what happens to reefs."

Baird said his fellow researchers painted a mixed picture for the reefs' future. While those that were raised in Simeulue are largely lost and will become coastal forests, those just beneath the reefs surface are likely to grow back—as long as local economic boycotted them.

"The area from Simeulue is not all bad," Shane Campbell, coordinator of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Indonesia Marine Program, said in a statement.

In many cases, the worst affected species are beginning to re-colonize the shallow reef areas," he said. "The reefs appear to be returning to what they looked like before the earthquakes, although the process may take many years."

Baird said their findings should give hope to communities in the Solomon Islands, where reservations have been raised that an April 2 earthquake and tsunami might have damaged its reef ecosystem and as have its devastated. AP

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy B. Molavales
Sports switchboard: [illegible]

MEETALK: Mexican Jorge Solis and supervisor Manny Pacquiao show off finely chiseled abdominals.

Pacman camp sneers at Solis

If he has 250 punches, Manny will throw 500, counters Fortune

By Roy Luarca

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—DOUBLE YOUR PUNCHES.

Australian Justin Fortune, serving as Manny Pacquiao's main trainer in the United States, belittled the claim of Jorge Solis' camp that he could throw 150 punches per round on Thursday-Friday in Manila.

FORTUNE

"If he (Solis) does 250, then Manny does 500," said Fortune, who has been honing up the Filipino superstar since last month in the absence of celebrated trainer Freddie Roach.

And, this early Fortune is convinced that Pacquiao is in great shape for his defense of the WBC International super featherweight crown against Mexican Jorge Solis.

"We (Pacquiao's) is as physically and mentally prepared now as, in his fights against Lilunis Mantiel (Marquez, (Mexico Armando) Barrera and (Erik) Morales," said Fortune, a former heavyweight boxer who serves as Roach's top assistant in his Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles.

Roach is currently in Puerto Rico, supervising Oscar De La Hoya's training for his blockbuster showdown against Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 5, but will arrive Saturday afternoon to date for the "Blaze of Glory" 399 (Hip Pro View) fights card at the Mandalaya.

"I've been working with Manny for four years and, basically, we're doing the same things," said Fortune, noting that they just up punishing the unbeaten but largely unknown Solis with the same exercises way they gave the other Mexicans ring scrap.

Fortune, who was trained with the way 55 years ministers Bobby Fernandez and Nonito Donaire (the nation's early training (Coral, Santos City learn) that they have matched the tapes of Solis' last six fights.

"He's good," said Fortune, "and he's not a slam fighter."

Fortune added that Solis, at his best, will not still win, because "Pacquiao is the world's best 130-pound fighter."

For all his handlers' claim of their ward's fitness and fastness, Solis will not go beyond the ninth round, Fortune predicted.

Problem? Pacquiao says he's underweight

By Roy Luarca

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—THE SWEAT TRICKled as though from a dripping faucet and formed a damp circle at the rug of the Jesse James Lodge gym here.

Manny Pacquiao, perspiring freely after more than two hours of light training, was handed a towel to dry his finely chiseled abdomen on Thursday (Friday in Manila).

He turned to the dare-Manila sportswriters standing near the ropes, blinked and whispered: "Nag-sauna nga ako ng 20 beses para (I'm sweating 20 times just to) [illegible]."

Then, he showed off his muscled abs and said: "Underweight na ako, kaya na lang ang kulang (I'm already underweight going to the fight)."

Whether the Filipino supreme has indeed already made the 126-pound limit for his WBC International super featherweight title fight against Mexican Jorge Solis will be known this afternoon when they step onto the weighing scales.

Pacquiao, certain he won't encounter any problem, even planned a light dinner on the eve of the official weight test.

"Kakain pa ako ng rice—still going to eat," said Pacquiao, adding he doesn't foresee any problem as far as his weight is concerned. "Walang problema (No problem)."

PHILSTAR.COM

Geneva, not Regine, will sing RP anthem

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—ELEVEN SINGER-GENEra Cruz will sing the Philippine national anthem to the Manny Pacquiao-Jorge Solis WBC International super featherweight fight at Alamodome (Sunday in Manila) at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, according to promoter Top Rank.

Cruz took over from Regine Velasquez, who has an engagement in Manila this weekend.

Reminder of Solis' fourth and Thursday this will be Cruz' second to the comedy in the States.

Other notable singers who have sung for Pacquiao's fights were Lani Misalucha, Sarah Geronimo, Erasa and Jennifer Sevilla, Gerardo and Orchestra and, as Regine, on Nov. 10 when Pacquiao stopped Lik Mosses in three rounds.

Roy Luarca

Humbled Harbour-RP vows to confuse Indonesia

By Jasmine W. Payo

JAKARTA, IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR coach Jamel Bartolo to put a finger on what went wrong. And it did not take time either for Bartolo to find a solution.

"We have devised an offensive play to break that zone and for our defense, we also have a surprise for them—we'll confuse them," Bartolo said a day after Harbour Centre Philippines absorbed a stunning 79-74 loss to Satria Muda Britama Indonesia in the third-head Asian Basketball Association (third) Champions Cup.

"I also told the boys you're not in your own country, they'll do everything to beat us, so we have to be alert for that."

Bartolo said his cause will be ready in the likely chance that the Philippines battles Indonesia again in the championship round.

"We're confident we can beat Indonesia," said Bartolo. "The players responded well."

Indonesia remained unbeaten in two games, while the Philippines and Malaysia (Assam) are tied with 1-1 slates.

Only the top two teams at the end of the elimination round will advance to the Final-4 of the four-nation club tournament. But the Philippines currently has the upper hand in the semifinals system. The nationals dubbed the Mahajanes, (87-72), on opening day.

Indonesia, too, is anticipating a change in the semifinals venue in the Philippines.

"They were not there in the Finals, we expect it to be very tough," said Indonesian coach Victor Sesing.

The Harbour-RP players, though, received a lot of reprimanding from Bartolo and his coaching staff during their two-hour practice last Thursday.

"They were too lazy," Bartolo said of reports Hilton Marcos and Vidal Mantuh.

"The reports admittedly it, they were playing with heavy legs especially in the fourth quarter," said assistant coach Louie Alas.

Indonesia's wind-sweeper, 6-foot-11 Ian Crumbaker and 5-foot-5 antagonist Nanih Utami—overpowered the Philippine rampers with a combined 42 points.

Marcos and Mantuh combined for 29 before finishing with a combined 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Indonesia's big men, however, said that the former PBA imports would offer a lot more.

"They big guys are very good," said Crumbaker, the Australian center who logged in 25 points, 16 rebounds and four assists versus the Philippines. "In the first quarter, they beat me a lot. They're both very tough players. If we play them in the championship, we'll more be ready."

"Those are tough guys, even their locals are tough too," added Utami, a feature who played for Cignasur in the UAAP.

For Bartolo, the PBA selection honored by Marcelo Adduru, James Cordero, JC Intal and Ryan Rodriguez must to be reasonably tougher.

"For the locals, the sense of urgency hasn't made it," said Bartolo.

And he hopes the presence of the sidelines of Indonesia President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who entered halls yesterday, would underscore his point.

"He [one] of them, it's their first time to compete internationally" added Bartolo. "I reminded them that there's a reason their names are on the back of their jerseys—they're playing for the country. I'm hoping it hit them that time."

Bayron keeps streak alive

Rules DHL golf with closing 69

By Manang B. Castillo

CAMALIGAN, CAMARINES—19-YEAR OLD Bayron savored the lead from Mario Labaja with birdies on the second and third holes yesterday and went on to win the 12th DHL-BWR/Express National Amateur championship—and a stunning three-under par 69.

Bayron actually birdied three of the first five holes at Camalig's North course here, which he practically dehumidified without the grass, and then picked up another shot on the 8, it so proved by two-shots and entered a hot streak during back on the 10th tournament in December.

"I guess these tournaments are just meant for me," the 27-year-old told the beginner in Filipino, moments after signing a 212-37 and for 209 overall, six under.

"I'm just hitting the ball well," added Bayron, who is currently PGT-ten, was last amateur in the GF Open and then teamed up with Ernie Estevez to rule the Kinabu Pro Am, all in a two month span.

Labaja gained his first eight holes before drop, ang a shot on No. 9. He preserved a level 72 to finish with a 283 but lost second place to Rolino Simon on the second playoff hole.

The younger Bayron, who the Labaja is a product of the National Toddlers' Open program, turned in a 67 to also finish at 282 even as former champion Jun Bernardo and dathtop Fernando tied for fourth with 284.

Bayron, who won this tournament in 2003, fired a 70-while 10 par member fernando, who led after the first two rounds on efforts of 66 and 68, shot a 71.

Oscar Serina, meanwhile, fired a 71 to rule Ladies' play with a 21-0 total, seven shots ahead of runner- Inge Tampinco, who fired a 76. Regina de Guzman, the reigning Thailand Open champ, shot a 77 for third place at 226.

Singaporean ace Chee Yee Hoong fired the round of the day—with—to score a 65 to blitz an with freebound home at 265. Sunny the former bag-toter at East Ridge who won in third spot after the third round, struggled to a 78.

Jay Bayron was precise all round, the baraga on Nos. 13 and 16 notwithstanding, with that miserable 12 proving to be more than enough to keep everyone at bay.

Labaja, matched by the Hondelio the fairway and the other NCO has to the field, muffled several of his putts from within sight feet.

Avelino was her third Open title after the Hong Kong and Indonesian Opens last year. She goes to Australia later this month together with Inge Tampinco for the Australian Ace.

ON A ROLL. Jay Bayron acknowledges the gallery.

Boxer tags Paciones as Sisnorio fight agent

By Jun Navarro

A BOXER WHO ALSO WENT TO THAILAND for a series of illicit fights came forward yesterday and named one of the most respected of serving boxing hosts for Filipino prizefighters overseas, as eluding that of the ill-fated Angeles Gonzales.

Gerino and documentary board chair Eric Wallace said a certain Boy Manzo told National Bureau of Investigation agents that Ben Paciones, a former Philippine Boxing Federation (PBF) brought him and teammate Thailand to Antipolo.

Manzo, who declined to reveal his real name, and that it was the 41-year-old Paciones who facilitated the travel documents and arranged their fights with Thai promoter Wira Nakmuaymuay.

Manzo said he was lured with others in Bangkok, he and Gerino's lured in a house together with 130 or so other boxers.

Agents said Brgal Filipino matchmakers accompanied with Thai boxing agent Boss Hirachokeo, who allegedly owned the boxers.

Gerino said he and Manzo lost several bouts after getting knocked out in the fourth round by Thailand's former world champion Chatchai Sasakul due to "bleeding in the brain."

Manzo also told NBI investigators headed by special investigation James Yuson that he and Gerino were forced to fight in other south fights, even though the amount in the contract they signed was for $500.

SPORTSWATCH

Big NCA derby slated at PCC April 17

THE NATIONAL CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION (NCA) HOLDS A BIG DOUBLE DUTY derby on April 17 at the Pinoy City cockpit. Hosted by Firefly Group and organized by Sagittarian Complainer, the derby will raise funds for the NCA cycling scholarship program. The NCA currently has 40 members at scholars of the University of the Philippines Los Baños and the Philippine Academy for Computer Science. J. Tanseco, William Go, Jerome Ng and Mike Dizon, Eddie Buenaba, Gerry Bendal, Boy de Rosa, Rebel Pineda, Jose Isidro Santos, Lito Orduna, Glen Alberto and Gomez Sumpaw will field their toughest guns in the derby. NCA president Ramon Ang, Senator Manny Villar, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jun Ramirez, Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Rep. Manny Dowling Cojuangco, Oscar Villanueva, Patrick Antonio, brothers Buffy and Ramon Nieto, Jil Bautista and Buddy Bautista, Johnny Lazatin, Charing Magbalon, Larry Mendiola, Joel Mondejar, Jaded Sy, Mitch Valdemoro, Nonoy Peralta, Jimmy Santos, Tony Martin, Johnny Revilla and Tom Matibag are also joining the fundraiser derby. Other top cyclists joining the derby are Lando Catalan, Noel Rosales, Edgar Santos, Pino Bello, Pete Ang-Angco, Chan Sabio, Mario Villanueva, Jun and Eddy Angeles and Joe Fernando.

Milo Checkmate clinics open soon

THE SIXTY-THIRD WEEKLY SERIES OF CHESS MASTER SUMMER CLINICS presented by Milo gets underway on April 18 and April 23 in Metro Manila and in the north. Set to start on April 18-23, are the classes at the following venues: St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Philippine Heart Center, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon; and Robinsons Galleria, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; MTC Cubao, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Metrobar Mall Ortigas, Pasig, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. April 23-28, the daily clinics will be held at Sta Rosa Mall, Sta Rosa, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Cebu Catholic College from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Angeles in Sacred School Calaupan, Laguna, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Cavite School of St. Mark on Barzaga Street, Cavite City from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Imperio Square, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Metro Basketball Learning Center at 1004-D P. Lacson St., Manila from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The clinics are open to kids five years and older.

Makati hosts 60-fight derby today

THE MAKATI JUNE A CLOSE DERBY CARD IS SET TODAY AT THE MAKATI Coliseum with some 60 fights on tap. Sandy Gar and Edwin Pap will head the event which offers a guaranteed purse of P600,000 for an entry fee of P20,000. The event is presented by G-Way Derby Ace and Gran Manabat. The Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) is stock derby sanctioned the event on April 16, with the derby set for 12 noon on the four-year-plus highlight. The Eastern 5-cock derby of Efren Cabrera, on the other hand, gets going on April 18 and the Metro 5-cock derby of Ram Lopez and MTC on April 23. For additional info, please call 896-2040 and 896-4473.

SJC cockfest gets under way

METRO MANILA AND GENERAL LUNA GAMEFOWLERS IN ACTION IN the Alfa Farms 4-cock derby that will feature 60 or more fights. The event slated is guaranteed prize of P600,000. Aside to matchbox entries in the event participated by Sagpaan Cockers Association (PCCA). The top members of The Pinoy Cockers Association (PCCA). The said derby at SJC cockpit on April 21. The National Rambolan 8-cock derby is on April 21, 22 and 23. The Rambolan finals takes place at 6:45 on May 5, 6, 10 and 12. For details, call 725-5888 and 725-6000 or 0915-804-9351.

Religan derby stakes P1M

THE SUMMERTIME OF SWORDING GAMEFOWL SWEEPSTAKES DERBY at Religan Village Cockpit as the second round elimination of the King of Sta Ana Derby 3-cock derby set for 4 p.m. With two more rounds on Sat., each worth April 16 and '05, the total derby pot of entries has reach to 200, said host Eddy Lopez. The champions stand to receive a guaranteed purse of P1 million for an entry fee of P5,000. Meanwhile, the closing third 4-cock derby, by money meet on April 30, with Tanay Cockers and company as hosts. The Sumatran Heat 4-cock derby is on April 23 and 24 at Cubao. For info, call 0917-811-8888. Also, the Philippine Cockers Association (PCA) 3-cock derby is 2 million available for entry fee of only P5,000. For reservation of accommodations, please call 88-5555, 8557600 and 8568707.

Tiger tamer Zach Johnson who?

By Percy D. Delia

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—TEMPUS Clyde Martinez winning the media treatment expert of the Philippine tri-lines (marshal golf championship)?

Holy Smoke!

That would be a fun no-frenzy-seller could sow powder—an exploit that would leave the real golfers among my sports-writing for others revelling in disbelief.

Because the golfers here have lined out together league than Bonifacio and his four-star Mountaineers.

Subsequent golfer Clyde making history a a lot of a stretch.

But in golf, the unheralded rise to top the classes are constant.

Take the victory of an unlikely guy in Augusta National—golf's most hallowed ground—last Sunday.

Zach Johnson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held off Tiger Woods to win the 71st Masters—dubbed golf's "tradition like no other."

Storming a back-nine charge by Woods, who was vying for a fifth green jacket, is a monumental feat indeed for a guy that no one outside his family and a small support group knows much of a chance to win his first major crack into the Masters.

"As they say, the game's got its ball at some point," the 31-year-old Johnson told a worldwide television audience of millions.

It did not matter that he finished at one-par 289 overall, matching the highest score to win the behind-wave.

But prevailing by two shots over Woods and veteran majors campaigners Retief Goosen and Nory Sabates did, especially when the victory was worth $1.17 million.

He was the unsung guy who previously had one PGA tour victory—the 2004 Bellsouth Classic—that's plenty of chump change.

COMMENTARY

Johnson won by shooting three-under 69 on Sunday when scoring conditions finally improved.

Gone were the cold winds that plagued the tournament's early round play, sending defending champion Phil Mickelson and other early contenders of contention even before Sunday's finals.

Johnson had never finished in the top 10 of a major. In two previous Masters visits, he missed the cut and, last year, finished tied for 22nd.

Woods, on the other hand, has won 10 PGA tour events and 12 professional majors including four Masters titles.

At some point, as Johnson says, games have to fall.

They fall, one by one, but Sunday.

* * *

If predictions are is true to form, Manny Pacquiao should cruise over challenger Jorge Solis in their fight at the shrine-of-stars in San Antonio, Texas, on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Pacquiao "might be off his game due to all the distractions around him," writes John Whidder of the San Antonio Express-News.

The distractions include Oar Pacman's dual world as a pugilist and a politician, says Whidder.

"Look for Pacquiao to start slowly but by the fifth would be should be in complete control. Pacquiao by ninth-round TKO."

Whidder, in an e-mail exchange with this writer earlier, said Pacquiao needs to fight someone before he fights Marco Antonio Barrera or Juan Manuel Marquez.

Whidder said it was pretty smart to choose San Antonio as venue and "take the fight away from Las Vegas."

"I don't foresee if the casinos or even Bernie Bert Office needed much Pacquiao-folks," he said.

Nine free venues for 'live' Pacman fight in Manila

HOMEBOYS AT the Good Shepherd School and Mother Basketball team display camaraderie and sportsmanship after disputing the title in the 2005 Charlie Tanglao Lingad Basketball Tournament at the Robinsons Starmall in San Fernando, Pampanga. Tournament director Edmundo Bautista, organizer Bernard Dumpit and events coordinator Macky Pablo graced the awards rites at the Adidas-backed tongfest.

WITH THE HISTORIC REAL Memorial Track Stadium added to the list, the city government of Manila offers nine venues for its fans to watch the showing of the super featherweight fight between IBF boxing super Juan Manny Pacquiao and unbeaten Jorge Solis of Mexico tomorrow.

Giant LED screens will be installed at the track stadium, the Ilaw Gerard Court in Tondo and Santa Cruzwood Court in Sta. Cruz to accommodate the public, while officials from all of the city's 895 barangays can witness the fight in six other venues through good perspective screens.

The Tondo Sports Complex in District 1, Smokey sa Binondoang Manalista formerly Pancho Sports Complex in District 2, Delpan Sports Complex in District 3, Antero Valentino Sports Complex (formerly Baptista) in District 4, and four district Sports and Cultural Center and Ma. ray Sagrado Stadium for District 5 and 6 will serve as live-viewing venues. Media report from Inquirer Sports staff

Problem? Pacquiao says he's underweight

From page A13

It was a surprising declaration from the world's best pound-for-pound fighter of 2006 who won visibly in a rotten mood when he woke up Thursday for today's noon weigh-in.

A member of Team Pacquiao said he got to bed at what he called unpleasant smoke and hardly spoke a word even after doing his routine morning run at the Rathmore Hotel here.

It may be true, as the sportswriters had to wait for nearly an hour under unrelenting heat before being called in to watch the closed door training.

But after revealing it out—skipping ropes, moving the speed ball, hitting the mitts, shadow boxing—with only Angkor sweating on the sidelines, his composure not lightened.

Orcollo just a game up on Yang

DENNIS ORCOLLO: Hunt earned lead

BEGINNING WORLD POOL LEAGUE CHAMPION DENNIS ORCOLLO ENGAGED Taiwan's Yang Ching-shun in a one-on-one battle and rallied on breaks to post a precarious 20-19 lead after the opening round of their race to 60 shot on Thursday at the Gateway Mall's Fresh Hall in Cubao, Quezon City.

Orcollo had to finance hush from a 15-10 deficit to take the opening round to the delight of hometown fans.

"Grabe, ang hirap. Kahihiyan [Terrible, he's a tough foe]," said the 28-year-old Bataan-bred Filipino.

"Akala ko nga anda na, kanya na nung isang game. Medyo na-lang-napinto-cha ay hiding rack (I really thought he'd take the round, good that he missed in the last rack)."

The unbeaten-ranked local money-game king sit-ting up four consecutive racks to reach the fall line. But a dry break in the next frame allowed the Taiwanese, known internationally as "Kenzi Pool," to turn up and send the match to a deciding 30th rack—with him breaking.

Meticulous cleanup

Yang sank the ten-ball 7 on the break, but misfired on the yellow 1 at the lower left corner pocket to yield the table to Orcollo, who meticulously cleaned up for the overnight lead.

The two were playing in preamble for the second of the three-round affair co-organized by Bugoy Watercolors of business man Percy Mariano and the Shakeinnan Enterprises of Ramon Tuason, and presented by Sun Mygard Corp., Solar Sports and the Quezon City government headed by Mayor Sonny Belmonte and its city council led by majority leader Ricardo Lee.

They were to play until one side scored seen 40 racks in the second round. They resume in the table today to complete the series, and determine the rest—albeit unofficial—"bragging-game king of the world."

Besides that claim, the protagonists are disputing the $13,000 purse in the contest sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP), and also sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Alaska Grocery Puna Hut, Brunswick, and Fortunabrau 66 Extra Cold.

Still anybody's game

"It's still anybody's game, and I must play doubly hard," said Orcollo.

The match was close, with neither playing leading more than three racks through 11 deadlocks and four lead changes.

Yang won the big hen Orcollo down first 5-0 and posted a 6-3 lead before the latter unleashed four straight racks to take the defier's ears.

The match was tied at 9-all after the 18th rack when Orcollo uncorked a 3-0 run for a 12-9 advantage.

Better than running red lights

It takes more than courage and fine reflexes to become a race car driver, the Inquirer's **Jasmine W. Payo** finds out

CLASS PICTURE: JP Tuason's students, including only woman Jasmine Payo, with their instructors in Subic.

I WASN'T THE LOOKED LIKE a red flag the moment I stepped inside my first circuit racing class.

And a couple of minutes into the lecture, a woman from a close mate did not help my confidence any.

"You're going to drive on circuit," he said.

I just laughed at the joke, knowing that Mikeh Bautgarone and Gaby dela Merced are probably the only female drivers who could impress them daredevils.

But I didn't care. Even if I turned out to be the only girl in the Street Circuit Car course of the Tuason racing school, I felt ready.

And when you have Formula 1 racers JP Tuason as your instructors, why worry, right?

Looking out from our classroom window at the Subic International Raceway, shiny cars zoomed past us at a blur.

In a few hours, I thought I would be racing just like them.

The introductory lecture was surprisingly brief, as we all tipped up our fleecy racing coats, grabbed our helmets and trooped to the pit stop.

I was pumped. But in a few minutes, I was wasted.

As the instructor clustered me (anyone harbor sex, many thoughts raced through my mind.

Is the 30-minute lecture enough? Haven't even memorized the race flags? Can I really do this? Oh no, there is an exquisite joyride boat with the clutch, burning tires driven extremely cars all only life And punishing? Yes!

In my first run, the speedometer barely reached 80 kph. And if you're running 40 on a race track, you're probably better off riding a motorcycle.

"Are you afraid to go fast?" our instructor asked. I nodded in agreement, knowing that bragging about going 140 along the Skyway would sound so mean. Unless I had another car in the meantime.

I gripped the steering wheel tightly yet stepped on the gas pedal all lights. The wall in the hotel, instead with a healthy dose of fear, was enough of a deterrent to stop me from blowing the accelerator.

Somehow though, I managed to survive the run was rounds of lectures and driving sessions.

But if there were awards for the highest level of stress and tension, I would've certainly be assured of a podium finish.

"Just have fun," racing instructor Jed Pajarillo constantly visited us.

I did, and we reached the blistering 160 kilometers in our lessons on downshifting.

The more I regain the driver to roll the bar on the gas pedal while still applying brake pressure to transition engine speed with the road speed and the run.

It's didn't explain that well enough for you to understand, it's only because I had enough time comprehending the whole big-chunk thing, too. Automatics had out, but someone was always there to strap me back to my back or seat.

"Don't worry," said Pajarillo. "Girls usually do better because they listen. Boys are usually too excited. They want to race right away."

Combining words, I'm it was still in second run for me. I cornered several corners, panicked at chicanes, turned a bit late at a curve. But I swear on everything dear to me, I felt threshold.

And after several laps, my instructor assured: "You're doing very good. Just a little more like running."

And that, to me, sounded like a perfectly humming engine.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Pursuant to Section 12 of Book V of the Rules Implementing Executive Order No. 247 otherwise known as the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, as amended, this is to inform the public that the following companies have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information objective to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES B. YSAMOUNT
Regional Director

RP shuttlers stun Jordanians, bow to hosts

A PAIR OF BARELY FIGHTING FILIPINO SHUTTLERS scored a morale-boosting win over Jordan before bowing to Malaysia in the fourth round of the Badminton Asia Championship in Johore Bahru, Malaysia on Thursday.

The tandem of teenagers Andrei Rabad and Kelvin Tee Ang eased in on the medal rounds Thursday morning after obtaining a Jordanian pair, 22-14, 21-19, for their third straight win but were thrust the door by a heavily favored Malaysian duo in the afternoon.

Hoping to answer to the hosts' cacophony of fours, Rabad and Ang absorbed a 21-9, 21-6 defeat.

"They had won three straight matches before losing to Malaysia," said head coach Errol Chan. "But, remaining that they are still seasoned and very young, that was a good performance."

The world No. 77 ranked pair of siblings Jeremiah and Kenneth Mamaton bowed out in the first round of the singles and mixed doubles of the competition, which is part of the Olympic Council Asian Games building.

Chan said the Philippines is trying to draw a deal with organizing Asian Games to stage this year a Philippine Satellite Open where local shuttlers can gain international ranking points.

He said that a Philippines could also be tapped to make the national team for the Thailand SEAG.

Mark Anthony Reyes

RP's Nouri half a point behind chess leaders

Standings after three rounds (IP unless noted)

[illegible]

VIDEO — ASEAN CUP TOP LOCAL: pandawan Rustend Bonat beat three-times champion of Indonesia until they drew with Grandmaster Utut Adianto of Indonesia to be in the clinch of the fight three rounds through the 2007 Philippines Open International Chess Championship at the Legends Hotel Friday.

Adding his first round triumph over Senior Chess of Singapore in the first round late Wednesday, Nouri (FIDE 2452), clinched into a tie-way tie for fourth-to-sixth place with five other foreign players in the $10,000 tournament.

The pride of Surigao, Segee Onofrenal, a only half a point be-hind the trio of Gibi Weng Hao of China and Zhang Zhong of China and Hoan Quang Minghuan of Iran.

Eno, seeded third with an Elo of 2650, outplayed MM Emmanuel Berador in 37 moves of the Sicilian and GM Eugene Torre in 26 moves of the Queen's Indian opening to keep his perfect record.

Zhong (Elo 2624) whipped Ildebrando Bernard and Bradley So, while Minghuan (Elo 2599) stunned MM Mendonez Mogo and conquered IA Chiu.

Top seed GM Wang Yue (Elo 2656) and second seed Ni Hua (Indo) their second-round matches against Sukanda Sinlar and Nyuzi Dongotan and their draw against Sinaubon Abellana of the Combined Stones and GM Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia, respectively.

Also, with the same score were Adriano and Megaranto.

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., the country's highest-rated player with an Elo of 2520, settled for back-to-back draws with Zhang Zhong of China and IM Julio Sadorra to bind sixth grip groupmate 3 points.

SPORTS

LA Clippers survive Kobe's 50, Cavs score

CLEVELAND superstar LeBron James says his 25-point effort robbed a slam-dunk-of-a-buzzer-beat play against New Jersey.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	GB
Toronto	47	31	–
New York	46	32	1
New Jersey	41	37	6
Philadelphia	35	43	12
Boston	32	46	15
Central Division			
Cleveland	48	30	–
Detroit	47	31	1
Chicago	36	42	12
Indiana	34	44	14
Milwaukee	28	50	20
Southeast Division			
Miami	43	35	–
Washington	41	37	2
Orlando	40	38	3
Charlotte	33	45	10
Atlanta	30	48	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division	W	L	GB
Utah	47	31	–
Denver	43	35	4
Portland	32	46	15
Minnesota	31	47	16
Seattle	30	48	17
Pacific Division			
Phoenix	51	27	–
L.A. Lakers	42	36	9
Golden State	42	36	9
L.A. Clippers	40	38	11
Sacramento	33	45	18
Southwest Division			
San Antonio	58	20	–
Houston	51	27	7
Dallas	50	28	8
Memphis	42	36	16
New Orleans	39	39	19

LOS ANGELES—COREY MAGGETTE SCORED a career-high 39 points, Elton Brand added 32, and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 118-110 Thursday despite Kobe Bryant's 50 points.

BRYANT

Bryant's nine 50-point games this season are the most in the NBA since Wilt Chamberlain scored at least 50 nine times in the 1964-65 season. Chamberlain averaged a record 50.4 points three years earlier.

The win snapped a three-game losing streak for the Clippers (38-40), who are tied with Golden State for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Western Conference. Both had the season's place Lakers by 1½ games.

Bryant shot 17 of 33 from the floor and made all 15 of his free throws. He also had nine rebounds. But he was held scoreless after making two free throws to give the Lakers a 102-92 lead with 8:06 remaining.

The Clippers outscored the Lakers 26-8 after that.

Cavaliers 94, Nets 76

At Cleveland, LeBron James looked playoff ready. The New Jersey Nets aren't quite there yet.

James scored 35 points in 36 minutes and Cleveland secured home-court advantage for the first round of the NBA playoffs with a win over New Jersey, which blew a chance to clinch home-court postseason berth.

Larry Hughes added 19 points for Cleveland (47-32), which trail idle Chicago (47-32) for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference. The Cavs have three games left, and they'll probably have to win them all and hope the Bulls—who own the tiebreaker between the clubs—stumble to avoid a possible first-round matchup against the Miami Heat.

With a few trademark dunks and more energy than he's shown in recent weeks, James took over in the third quarter, scoring 23 points when the Cavaliers shot 62 percent (14-of-37) from the field to blow the game open.

Vince Carter scored 26 points to lead the Nets (37-41), who came in as the East's No. 7 seed.

A victory would have insured Nets Jersey's eight number for clinching a sixth straight playoff appearance to come. However, the Nets were out of synch offensively and got just five points from Richard Jefferson and only eight from Jason Kidd.

GAME TODAY (Rankings TV)

'Fistiana' matches to benefit kin of Sisnorio

FOR THE GREATER GLORY
Father Benny Tuazon, parish priest of St. Alphonsus in Magallanes Village, readies for the ceremonial drive for the Father Jesus golf tournament, which kicked off recently. Also present were (from right) PDC and All for Jesus chair Robert Arevalo, Ronnie Dizon, Ryi Angco, Ramon Ungco, Dick Palencia and Eddie Perez

THE SHADES OF FALLEN BOXER LITO SISNORIO will be among the beneficiaries of the Pesta Pictures-hosting festival on April 20 at the Ralph Ramos Sports and Cultural Boulevard.

Along with Sisnorio's kin and destitute fighters, the family of Sisnorio, the former WBC junior flyweight champion who died of brain hemorrhage after being knocked out by Thailand's Chatchai Sasakul in Bangkok early this month, will be provided a source of income through the event organized by the Philippine Sportswriters Association in partnership with the Games and Amusements Board and the City of Manila.

Although the 28-year-old Sisnorio went to Thailand against the former WBC flyweight title that was unauthorized by boxing officials in the Philippines, Pesta Pictures organizers deemed it necessary to lend a hand to the family of the unfortunate pug.

Sisnorio, whose license expired last year, was just one of several local philanthropists lured by unscrupulous promoters into supposedly lucrative fights abroad. The local boxers, however, are oftentimes paid less than the amount offered and never have a chance of winning, since such fights are said to be organized just to pack the resorts of the foreigners.

"Sisnorio and other boxers in those situations are the victims," said SAB chairman Ian Wahpek.

Undertaken annually by the PSA by virtue of Republic Act 1207 or the Disabled Filipino Boxers Trust Fund, Pesta Pictures raises funds for destitute and disabled boxers.

Marcelo eyes karting No. 2

JUAN STEFANO MARCELO GUNS FOR HIS second straight win tomorrow in the second leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Some 90 karters, using alternative gasoline-ethanol blend Shell E-10, are expected to compete for the various titles at stake including those who missed out on the last month's kickoff leg.

And with the top guns back, Marcelo hopes to push himself a little more to preserve solo lead-ership in the Formula Open 125 class.

During his practice run at the Batangas Racing Circuit, Marcelo was doing 1:39 in 7:38 lap times, which he promised would be cut down to feed coach Roberto's competitive mood.

Marcelo, running for SBMI Racing, will have his hands full up against the top three karters last season—defending champion Marlon Custodio of Alexandra Racing, team-mate Racing champion Jason Hockinger and Daniel Clark of Strikeforce Motorsports.

No further details call (02) 7 2241.

Venus, Jankovic gain in 'Family'

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA—Venus Williams cruised into the Family Circle Cup quarterfinals Thursday, routing China's China Tang Jun, 6-2, 6-1.

Williams, unseeded and in her fourth tournament since recovering from a wrist injury earlier in the year, needed just nine an hour to win the match on a bright, breezy day on the green clay at Daniel Island.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Williams, ranked No. 20, will face fourth Shahar Garrigues of Spain, a 6-4, 7-5 winner over eighth-seed of Li Na of China.

Williams won in Memphis in her return, advanced to the third round in Miami and made the quarterfinals last week at Amelia Island.

"I've been off so long and I'm eager to play and I'm eager to get my ranking up and I want to play tournaments," she said. "I'm excited about the second-half of the."

Second-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, ranked No. 9 and the highest remaining seed in the $1.4 million event, had an easy second-round win over Nicholay.

Jankovic beat Maria Antonopolis of Italy, 6-3, 6-0, in 47 minutes, losing only six points in the second set. It's Jankovic's fourth appearance in Charleston, but until this week she never had reached the second round.

"I've seen in the top 10 and I've just a different player," she said. "I really don't have to prove anything to anybody, but all I want is just to enjoy my game, play my game." AP

Struggling Els encouraged by hot Verizon start

ELTON JOHN ELSIDE, SOUTH GEORGIA—Ernie Els smiled after his 8-iron shot 45 feet to open the Verizon Heritage. He wasn't in front, but he wasn't out of it either, as he's been so often or numerous times the past five seasons.

His new two-shot behind leader Jerry Kelly who began with an 8-under 63 at Harbour Town Golf Links on Thursday. And the South African was glad to make a mark so early in a PGA Tour event.

"Just to start off well and feel like I'm in the tournament was a nice feeling," Els said.

That seems like an odd stance from a three-time major winner currently ranked fifth in the world, but the "Big Easy" has had his troubles since winning three times overall in 2004.

"I haven't won so I would be quite a few years now," Els said. "But 'til now to win, and I'd like to win a couple, not just one."

Els exhumed a knee injury midway through the following season. He took the rest of the year off after damage worsened his repaired anterior cruciate ligament. He played 10 events in 2006, but didn't finish higher than third.

Els has played five times this year. He got off to a promising start, tying for third at the Dimes Open in February. Since then, he hasn't done better than a tie for 51st at the WGC-CA Championship last month. He missed the cut at the Masters a week ago for just the second time in 14 stops on Augusta National.

So he was pleased to put his lowest round of the season, particularly after his Masters flop.

"Mentally, I wasn't there" at Augusta, Els said. "Needless to say, my game broke down."

He kept things together at Harbour Town, his ninth birdie-eagle. By the time he reached 6-under as candidate his birdie on the par-3 17th, Els was two shots behind.

"I didn't want to walk around going through the motions, see how this week," Els said. "I want to try and have a chance on Sunday. So this was a good start."

Then again as good as Kelly's.

Kelly, who finished three strokes behind winner Zach Johnson at the Masters, stood at 9-under par with three holes left, flirting to break 60 for the first time. Although, as he was so close, Kelly admitted, he was also aware of Els' hunter and he could feel some par from the sand.

Kelly knows his 36 demonstrative style, but worked to channel his emotions into more consistent play. He says he's "more comfortable from the very first time to the last shot, instead of getting real excited at the start with all my adrenaline pumping and then kinda second-thing happens to bring me me down."

In a rare Harbour Town appearance from a Masters winner, Johnson shot a one-, 70, seven shots off the lead. But the 31-year-old Iowan probably has a good reason other than a brief stint's work of TV preparation and celebrations. He missed only a four-putt double bogey 6 on the club's hole.

"I miss. I miss. I miss. I make," said Johnson, parroting Steve Ballmer's famous explanation for his dragons four-putt nearly two decades ago.

"Obviously that was just a complete mental lapse. So, whatever." AP

Ex-dirt champ Anton tops Hill Climb Series round 1

THE FIELD cruises through the initial curve of the race that ended in Tagaytay City.

FORMER DIRT TRIAL CHAMPION and Marlboro Surf Racing School member Carlos Anton continued a successful drive of drivers from rallying, slalom, circuit racing and starting in the first round of the 2007 Hill Climb Series recently held on the portion of the National Road that links Silang and Tagaytay City.

The first of the four rounds of the Series featured a two-kilometer uphill road finished by various teams and racers that challenged the competitors.

In Group 1 cars powered by engines of 1,600cc and below, it was his figure to a Honda Mean 600-5 who emerged victorious with a time of 1:07.76 (1 minute 07.76 seconds), followed by Jose Isada in a Honda City who submitted a 1:40.06.

Group 2 (1,601cc to 2,000cc) top honors, meanwhile, went to Vic Santos in a Honda CRX who posted 1:33.16, which was also the second best time of the day. Former rallyist and roaring racer Nikki Uy-Castro, who flew in from China just to attend the event, stopped the clock in 1:50.09 in a Toyota Starlet Turbo to take second place (and third best time of the day).

Group 3 (above 2,000cc) was assessed by Anton, who topped through the course in a Honda CRX to post a stunning 1:06.76 the only sub-1:00 record of the event. With his effort, Anton also walked away with the coveted Best Time of the Day award.

Another former dirt trial champion Benet Policarpio of a Nissan Patrol finished in second place with a 1:24.37 despite banging his wheels hard against a rock. Third place, meanwhile, went to Jun-Jun Morenol in a Subaru WRX, who registered a 1:34.65.

In the Historic Class, it was David Tamayo and his Porsche 911 who took home the trophy.

As of the first round, the drivers point standings for the National Title are Carlos Anton, 20; Vic Santos, 15, and Nikki Uy-Castro, 12.

The next round of the Series is scheduled on April 28. Call 0916 Hill Climb of the Philippines at 633-8586 for details.

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GSIS sells 6% stake in SMC for ₱14B

Fund says trading gains hit P9.8B in 3 weeks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuer

STATE PENSION FUND GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURance System (GSIS) yesterday sold 6 percent of its stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) for P14 billion, a stock which the pension fund has held for the past three decades.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia declined to comment on who bought the shares, although market talk point to the San Miguel family's investment fund as the buyer.

GSIS sold 139.26 million SMC shares at P71.50 each in two special block sales consisting of 105.7 million "B" shares and 3.65 million "B" shares.

GSIS said it realized net profits of P5.7 billion from the sale of SMC shares.

GSIS has unloaded P25 billion worth of various stocks in the past three months, realizing net gains of P9.8 billion.

"This is the boldest and strongest statement of confidence in the Philippine economy under the Arroyo administration. Realizing P9.8 billion in trading gains in just three weeks has never happened before in the past 69 years of GSIS," Garcia said.

Garcia said that the GSIS has retained 5,000 SMC shares in order to attend its stockholders' meeting as a director on June 19. The June meeting will be GSIS' last meeting as a member of the SMC board.

"Our strategy since last December has been to cash in (on) our stock investment by disposing of our stocks. Everything is on the chopping block. We will encourage other investors into the market (this way). The more investors putting their money into the market, the more robust it will be," Garcia said.

Garcia also said that GSIS members would benefit from the stock deals since this would strengthen the pension fund's financial hands that, in turn, would lengthen the fund's actuarial life.

The actuarial life refers to the period within which the GSIS can fully service all the claims and benefits of its members and pensioners. GSIS has stretched its actuarial life to 2040 from an earlier estimate of 2026 made in 2001.

GSIS expects to realize P1.5 billion worth of trading gains from the stock market this year from other stock transactions, however, declined to identify which stocks the pension fund would sell.

GSIS also plans to reinvest proceeds of its stock sales in the local capital mar- GMA N

IMF sees 5.8% growth for RP this year

By Michaela V. Reina

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund expects the Philippine economy to grow by 5.8 percent this year, saying expanding trade activities among neighboring countries in the Asian region would compensate for the slowing demand from the United States.

The IMF's growth outlook for the Philippines compares with Indonesia's 6 percent, Thailand's 4.5 percent and Malaysia's 5.5 percent.

"The importance of the United States as a destination for exports has been declining in most countries...with the important exception of China...and the role of intra-regional trade has been rising," the IMF said in its 2007 economic outlook.

The growth of the Philippine economy is seen to be sustained with and partly influenced by rising economies of its neighboring countries, which the IMF has assigned a positive investment outlook.

The Philippine government has set an economic growth target of 5.5 percent this year despite an expected decline in demand from the United States, it biggest export market. The government's economic managers said the projection was based on an anticipated rise in demand for electronics, the country's major export product, in other countries.

The IMF said that a pick-up in the

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **SMC sells Del Monte** stake to Campos group for $150M /B2

■ **Investments listed** with DTI doubled in Q1 /B4

■ **ABS-CBN eyes hike** in advertising rates /B7

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱47.000 = $1

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Stocks down

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.19 PERCENT lower yesterday due to a lack of fresh leads, dealers said.

The composite index fell 11 points to 3,217.37 after moving between 3,208.33 and 3,230.06. The broader all-share index fell 3.44 points to 1,980.03.

SMC sells Del Monte stake to Campos group for $150M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. YESTERDAY SAID IT was selling its entire minority stake in joint-venture company NutriAsia San Miguel Holdings Ltd. to the NutriAsia Group of businessman Joselito Campos for $150 million, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

NutriAsia San Miguel owns 100 percent of NutriAsia Pacific Ltd., which in turn owns 51.3 percent of Del Monte Pacific Ltd. (DMPL).

Under the terms of the sale, SMC will receive $150 million as consideration for the shares and other interests following the closing of the transaction.

NutriAsia San Miguel Holdings is the joint-venture company set up by Campos and SMC in late 2005 to acquire Del Monte Asia-Pacific unit.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said the company's divestment of its stake in Del Monte "is consistent with the original agreement that provided for a friendly process of disengagement by either party."

"In front of our larger corporate strategy, the move is also consistent with our plan to drive growth for our company by concentrating our resources in areas where we have full control and the strongest competitive positions. Soon-to-end operations are going to be our joint-line moving forward," Ang said.

In proof of this, SMC in December announced its exit from the soft drinks business with the sale of its 65 percent stake in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) to the world's biggest soft drinks and nonalcoholic drinks manufacturer, The Coca-Cola Co.

Del Monte managing director and chief executive officer Joselito D. Campos Jr. said: "We're benefited from the year in which San Miguel and the NutriAsia Group worked closely to strengthen and increase the value of the Del Monte business. Our improved competitive position will be reflected in our robust performance for 2006. We achieved good top line growth with many of our business segments posting record sales/revenues, particularly in the second semester."

Del Monte reported record revenues of $243 million in 2006, or 9-percent higher than the previous year's. Net profit for the year was $25 million, a 33-percent increase from 2005.

Del Monte is the leading Philippine integrated producer and branded marketer and distributor of processed food products under the Del Monte brand name. The company also owns the Del Monte brand in the Indochina countries and produces a juice line in China.

SMC said it would continue to partner with NutriAsia in the areas of potential interest such as packaging and distribution and the development of products for SMC's subsidiary, Universal Foods LLC, for the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2007-03-0003

PRESCRIBING THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE TRANSFER OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN PETROLEUM SERVICE CONTRACTS UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 87, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, Section 11 of Presidential Decree No. 87 (PD 87), as amended, provides that the rights and obligations under a petroleum service contract shall not be assigned or transferred without the prior approval of the Department of Energy (DOE);

WHEREAS, the DOE fully recognizes that to petroleum exploration, development and production projects an existing service contractor may transfer or assign wholly or partly its rights, interest and obligations to another entity who can contribute both financial resources and technical expertise in undertaking the obligations under the service contract, and in the process spread the risks therein;

WHEREAS, with the huge investment and technical expertise required in petroleum exploration, development and production projects, there is a need to encourage farm-in to the service contract arrangement or accepting parties to pool their financial resources and technical expertise together to jointly undertake such projects;

WHEREAS, there is a need to rationalize transfers or assignments of rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts to ensure that the assignees or transferees possess the requisite financial capacities, legal qualifications and technical capacities and experience to undertake obligations and commitments under such service contracts;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the following guidelines and procedures shall be observed for the transfer or assignment of rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts executed under PD. 87, as amended:

Section 1. Transfer or assignment of rights and obligations. The rights and obligations under a petroleum service contract executed under PD 87, as amended, shall not be assigned or transferred without the prior approval of the DOE. Provided, That the transfer or assignment of contractual rights and obligations in service contracts to an affiliate of the transferor or assignor shall be exempted. If the transferee or assignee is a qualified party, the transferor or assignor shall be in accord with the government Philippine Nation. That the affiliate relationship between the original transferor or assignor and the transferee or assignee shall mean at least fifty percent of the transferor's outstanding voting shares of stock, and such transfer/assignment shall be reviewed during the extension of the service contract.

Section 2. Procedure for transfer or assignment of rights and obligations under Service Contracts. All requests for approval of transfer or assignment of rights and obligations under a petroleum service contract shall be in writing, signed by all parties thereto or representatives duly authorized for the purpose and addressed to and filed with the Office of the DOE Undersecretary in charge of the Energy Resource Development Bureau (ERDB), together with the following documents and/or information:

a. Ability of Service Contractor
   i. Effective date of service contract;
   ii. Original parties involved and extent of participating interest;
   iii. Subsequent changes in operator in the service contract, if any; and
   iv. Work accomplishments/updates on on-going activities.

b. Proposal for Transfer or Assignment
   i. Extent of interest that is the subject of the assignment or transfer;
   ii. Reasons for the assignment or transfer and/or reasonableness and urgency of the transfer or assignment (supporting papers should be attached);
   iii. Approval of the appropriate Board of Directors of the transferor/assignor and transferee/assignee.

c. Technical Justification for the Transfer or Assignment
   i. Implications of the proposed transfer and assignment on current Work Program, if any;
   ii. Proposed minimum Work Program and budget with specific timetable for each phase of the Work Program, if any; and
   iii. Benefits and technical advantages in fulfilling work commitments under the service contract.

d. Duly executed Deed of Assignment or Transfer.

e. Documents evidencing financial, legal and technical qualifications of the prospective transferee or assignee:

   1. Financial Qualification
      i. Audited financial statements and annual reports for the last three (3) years; and
      ii. Certification of financial resources available to the prospective assignee/transferee including banker credit facilities and guarantees to underwrite its obligations under the service contract.

   2. Legal Qualification
      i. Certified copy of Articles of Incorporation;
      ii. Certified copy of the corporate by-laws;
      iii. SEC Registration Certificate; and
      iv. Certified copy of latest general information sheet submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

   3. Technical Incompetence
      i. Technical and industrial qualifications, capabilities and work related experience of the prospective assignee/transferee or its contractors and consultants; and
      ii. Technical and industrial resources available to the prospective assignee/transferee for the exploration, development and production of petroleum resources, if applicable, depending on the participation of the prospective assignee/transferee in the service contract.

The DOE may require submission of additional information/documents. Furthermore, any prospective assignee/transferee organized and incorporated in a foreign country shall submit documents equivalent to the above, issued by the appropriate governing body and duly authenticated by the Philippine consulate in the area where the prospective assignee is based.

Section 3. Within ten (10) working days from the DOE's receipt of the formal request for approval of the transfer or assignment, together with the complete set of documents, unless such period is extended by requiring further evaluation/information, the Contracts Division, Petroleum Resource Development Bureau, Energy Resource Development Bureau shall complete their legal, technical and financial evaluation on the application of the prospective assignee/transferee and issue a memorandum to the DOE Director on the result of the evaluations.

Section 4. Within three (3) working days from receipt of the memorandum on the legal, technical and financial evaluations, such memorandum shall be endorsed to the Legal Service Division of the DOE for review and issuance of a memorandum to the Undersecretary in charge of ERDB, through the Assistant Secretary, on the result of the evaluation, indicating among others, the following:

a. Background of the Service Contract;
b. Principal and justification for the transfer of rights and obligations;
c. Terms of the deed, agreement and/or proposal; and
d. Recommendation for approval or denial of the request.

Section 5. Within three (3) working days from the receipt of the DOE Director's memorandum, unless such period is extended by requiring further evaluation, the Undersecretary shall advise the Director of his recommendation through a memorandum, on the proposed transfer of rights and obligations under the service contract.

Section 6. Within three (3) working days from the Office of the Secretary's receipt of the Undersecretary's recommendation, unless such period is extended by requiring additional information, the service contractor shall be informed in writing of the Secretary's decision on the transfer or assignment of rights and obligations under the service contract.

Section 7. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. This Circular shall take into effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Issued this 23rd day of March 2007 in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA
Secretary

GSIS sells . . .

From page B1

lot. It last earlier tapped Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Banco de Oro Universal Bank to manage P6 billion worth of assets for a period of three years starting that year.

The three banks were assigned as lead fund managers of the GSIS with a mandate of P2 billion each.

GSIS also disclosed plans of investing $1 billion in global investments—fixed income and stocks—in markets in Asia, Europe and the United States to diversify its investment portfolio.

It derived its inspiration from The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), which provides pension fund, healthcare benefits and retirement services to nearly 1.5 million California public employees.

"CalPERS has encouraged us to go global," Gen he said.

In 2006, GSIS posted net operating revenues of P63 billion, up from P57.87 billion the previous year.

Stocks down

From page B1

There were 64 losers and 42 gainers, while 61 stocks were unchanged. Volume amounted to 4.9 billion shares worth P1.78 billion.

"There are no exciting developments and most investors are still focused on newly listed Pacific Online," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Inc. in Makati.

Shares of Pacific Online, a provider of online gaming equipment, jumped 75 centavos to P1.4 as its second trading day. The company's price has jumped almost 58 percent from its initial public offering price.

Top-valued Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P25 to P2,400 while SM Investments was down P5 at P368.

San Miguel's A- and B-shares closed unchanged at P85 and P73.50, respectively.

"The market is expected to continue moving sideways possibly until after the elections," De Leon said, adding that is campaign and local poll season May 14. AFP

IMF sees . . .

From page B1

economic activity in the Asean 4—the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia—will see rapid turnover of the lasting effects of monetary tightening on growth.

But although the IMF considers a 5.8-percent growth in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) as respectable, the projection was lower than the government's own target of between 6.1 and 6.7 percent.

Some economists and the government's growth target might be too optimistic, but the Arroyo administration argued that improving economic fundamentals would support the growth target.

The National Economic and Development Authority outlined the reasons behind the projection, the government's improving fiscal condition, the slowdown in inflation and a pick-up in the stock market would help the economy achieve the government's target.

The IMF highlighted the slowdown in inflation in the recent region, including the Philippines, in support of its positive outlook for consumption rise.

"Inflationary pressures across the region remain generally well contained, with monetary tightening—and currency appreciation in some countries...having limited the second-round impact of the increase in oil prices last year, although the impact generally remains substantial in a number of countries," the IMF said.

"Second-round impact of the increase in oil prices" refers to possible further acceleration of inflation due to increase in wages, which was barred by the first round of price adjustments that resulted from oil price spikes.

The appreciation of the peso was marked by its recent breaking into the 47 to-a-dollar level and reaching its new high. Philippine monetary authorities said the strengthening of the peso was a major reason for the slowdown in inflation.

Gov't plan to borrow $33.8M from ADB gets BSP nod

Loan proceeds to finance coastal resources development projects

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has approved the national government's move to borrow $33.8 million from the Asian Development Bank to fund a project that will help manage the country's coastal resources.

Interactions in foreign exchange also need approval from the BSP, which monitors whether the country's foreign currency reserves are enough to cover all payments for foreign-denominated borrowings.

"This project is consistent with the government's efforts to address sustainable development of coastal resources," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on a briefing, quoting a paper on the project proposal.

Guinigundo said the project would cover 60 municipalities in the provinces of Cagayan, Cebu, Davao Oriental, Masbate, Sarangani and Zamboanga.

Implementation of ways to manage the country's coastal resources, which are part of efforts to develop livelihood in the coastal areas, has been identified as one of the means to boost economic development outside Metro Manila.

The BSP official said the loan would be payable over 25 years, with a six-year grace period. The loan charges an interest rate equivalent to six-month Libor plus 60 basis points. Guinigundo said Libor currently stands 5.3 percent.

The loan will form part of the government's programmed foreign borrowings through official development assistance (ODA) for 2007.

The government has set a foreign borrowing program of $2.47 billion for 2007. Of this, $1.47 billion would be in the form of ODAs, while the remaining $1 billion would come from commercial sources.

The government has completed the commercial borrowing component for this year when it sold $1 billion worth of bonds in the international capital market last January.

The foreign borrowings, in addition to local loans, will help plug the estimated budget deficit of P60 billion this year.

The Department of Finance earlier said that the strategy of borrowing more from ODA lenders than commercial sources was intended to keep its borrowing cost low.

The ADB is one of the Philippines' biggest sources of ODAs, together with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the World Bank.

Aside from the financial assistance addressing the need to develop coastal management, other ODAs for the development of other sectors are also provided by the ICAB. Another major beneficiary of ODAs from the ADB is the country's power sector.

Cebu to host Asean tourism confab in June

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESSES IN CEBU ARE following through on the province's international exposure in hosting the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit with a regional tourism congress that will coincide with the annual Cebu Business Month.

According to the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the event dubbed CBM Asean Tourism Congress would provide an opportunity to position Cebu as a gateway to Asia.

Event chair Mila C. Espina said in a statement that CBM Tourism would be held June 14-15 at the Cebu International Convention Center, one of the major venues during the Asean Summit in December and January.

"The gatherings would serve as a venue for regional discussions on tourism and its role as a key driver of Asian economic growth and development," Espina said.

"CCCI expects the congress to attract some 500 senior executives from leading tourism, travel, convention and exhibition organizations, as well as government and media organizations focusing on tourism," she added.

CCCI president Francis G. Montes said the group has spearheaded the yearly Cebu Business Month since it started eight years ago.

"Our objective is to celebrate the significant achievements and leadership role that Cebu's business community plays in enterprise development, socioeconomic prosperity and nation building," Montes said. "That includes bolstering collaborative regional partnerships."

"The business tourism sector is ripe for regional expansion, with the 12th Asean Summit [being] successfully set the tone for these initiatives," he said.

Montes said CCCI's goal now was to strengthen the platform for regional growth in the areas of tourism and infrastructure and communications technology throughout district events—the CBM Asean Tourism Congress and the Cebu ICT.

The tourism conference, intended to further accelerate regional tourism and cooperation, would take on proposals for the development of regional branding guidelines and joint promotions as well as other key issues like facilities and meetings, incentives, conventions and fairs, eco-tourism and family adventure tourism.

The discussions would take off with case studies and examples of best practices in marketing Asian players and would feature global travel and tourism experts.

Themed "Inspiring Cebu: Gateway to Asia," the CBM Asean Tourism Congress is being organized with the help of the departments of tourism, foreign affairs and trade and industry.

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Investments listed with DTI doubled in Q1

By Norman V. Donodoy

Funds seen to generate 32,000 jobs, trade officials say

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED WITH agencies attached to the Department of Trade and Industry went up 102 percent to a total of P40.46 billion in the first quarter.

DTI data show that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority based a total of 177 projects that are expected to directly generate 32,116 jobs.

In the same period of 2006, BOI and Peza approved the registration of a total of 369 projects which represented 28,474 new direct jobs.

The investment-driven agency continue to maintain strong, with P13.71 billion pesos approved, P10.81 billion, mass housing, P6.52 billion and, IT services, P5.29 billion.

Compared to the same period last year, the manufacturing sector grew by 68 percent (from P9.27 billion...mass housing by 22 percent from P5.31 billion, and the IT services by 366 percent from P2.27 billion.

Among the major investments approved from January to March include Fina Gen Hydro Power Corp.'s 12MW megaWatt Pandanguan Mustang hydropower project worth P7.7 billion, Bonbon Tamugan Inc.'s P960 million hydropower project; Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.'s P540 million project, which involves the manufacture of cooperods and instrumentation; and, Philippine Resources's P412.2 million automotive wiring harness project.

Most of the manufacturing and IT services projects are to be located in the export zones and IT parks and buildings of Peza.

Foreign investors accounted for 43 percent, or P17.38 billion, of total investments, while Filipinos committed P23.07 billion.

The top three foreign investors included firms based in Japan, with P6.82 billion, The Netherlands, P3.67 billion, and the United States, P3.55 billion.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said the growth rates manufacturing and IT services were an indication that the country remained competitive in these areas, which were also the main sources of new jobs and export earnings.

"Another noticeable feature of the first quarter performance is the renewed investor interest in the power sector, which would ensure that the growing power requirements of the country in the immediate future would be addressed," Hernandez said.

He also said investments in the power sector involved resources that were renewable and environmentally clean.

Trade Secretary Peter R. Favila, who is also BOI chair, said initiatives were seeing improvements being done in the business environment, such as the easing of red tape and the suppression of corruption in the workplace.

The government had taken steps to do away with fees related to exports and, at the same time, was tied with the private sector to put up an export fund for exporters' use.

"The recent visits of Israeli, Chinese and Russian business officials are a clear indication of the bright prospects for doing business in the country," the trade chief said.

"We are putting in place additional measures to make business transactions with government easier and more transparent," he said.

Earlier this month, the BOI signed an agreement with the Bureau of Immigration to provide 24-day visas for foreign businessmen.

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

...TO: FRANSHOW

...SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

...SSC CASE NO. 11-11477-98

SUMMONS

...GREETINGS:

...SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

RP traders eye bigger market at Chicago fair

LEADING CONFECTIONERY FIRMS hope to increase their export orders of fruit convenience products through North America's largest food trade show in Chicago next month.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, shipments of processed and convenience food grew by about 11 percent in 2006, reaching P421 million from $831 million in 2005.

Clients is now organizing the country's first ever participation in the Chicago trade show to be held from May 6 to 9, said Trade Assistant Secretary Adelita Ap-sandilla-Reyes, who is also executive director of CITEM.

Reyes said the Chicago fair, organized by Food Marketing Institute, is considered to be the largest and most comprehensive food industry event in North America.

Among the local firms participating in the fair are Alliance Select International Limited (ASIL), Mega Fishing Corp. (sardines in canned, pouched and bottled sardines), Oriental Exports Inc. (fruit preserves, noodles, fruit wines, food supplements), Oriental Synergies Integrated Inter-national (RDW Corp. (dry baking mixes, flours, other baking needs), Orok, other food products), Pacific Coast Food Manufacturing Corp. (ready pack chips, dried fruits), and Superstar Coconut Products Co. Inc. (bread crumbs & mixes, baking coconut and toppings).

"Although this is our first time to participate in the FMI Show, we are confident that we will gain the interest of buyers/importers through our high and quality food products," Reyes said.

Reinard R. Domingo

ON THE BIG BOARD

Ricardo Lim of the Philippine Stock Exchange (second from left), Willie Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corp., and Sergio Valencia and Victor Dominguez of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, turn on the stock exchange's ceremonial bell during the listing of Pacific Online Systems at the Stocks Tower in Ortigas Center.

Australia firm expands search for oil

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN FIRM 3M OIL LTD. will be investing $38 million to expand its 3D seismic survey on Service Contract 41 over the Linapacan Basin.

In a presentation posted on the company's official website, Top Oil said that before the end of the month, it would be gathering seismic data on 600 square kilometers covered by SC 41—up from an initial 360 square kilometers.

Those data are expected to help prepare the company's Tat drilling activities scheduled for next year.

Based on available 2D marine data on the area, nine leads have been identified. Each lead is estimated to contain recoverable oil of up to 150 million barrels.

Top Oil said that, while the Linapacan Basin could be compared to the prolific basins off the east and west coasts of Borneo, the SC 41 area was still relatively underexplored, with only 2E wells drilled so far.

Meanwhile, Top Oil recently received into a farm-out agreement with Intramount Energy Inc for SC 41, consistent with its strategy of getting larger equity interests while maintaining its status as operator of the service contract.

"As a pioneer, but lightly explored Borneo basin, the Linapacan and SC 41 in particular, offers significant potential," intramount Energy chief executive officer Kenneth Ko said.

"This agreement adds another exciting exploration element to our balanced portfolio across-Southeast Asia, and complements the recent petroleum sharing agreement we signed for approximately 7,500 barrels of oil per day," he added.

With the signing of the agreement, Top Oil now has a 50-percent stake in SC 41, while fellow-member holds 35 percent.

SC 41 covers an area of approximately 1,020 square kilometers, with depth ranging from 200 meters to 2,000 meters.

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

STABILIZING PRICES

Cargill, Toeffer win corn supply deals

By Amy R. Remo

CARGILL PHILIPPINES INC. AND Toefley International Asia PTE. Ltd won the right to supply the National Food Authority 120,000 metric tons of yellow corn in a bidding last Wednesday.

Those companies would import the yellow corn from Argentina.

Ric Pinca, executive director of the Philippine Association of Flour Millers Inc., said in an interview that this importation would satisfy only one month of yellow corn supply this year which, according to the Livestock Development Council, could reach 1.32 million metric tons.

"This importation will help ensure a stable supply and prices of yellow corn in the market," Pinca said.

Toefler and Cargill would each supply 60,000 metric tons of yellow corn. The first shipment will arrive in June while the second, in July.

Pinca said the country's yellow corn production for 2007 was estimated at 3.68 million metric tons. But because losses were placed at 15 percent, bringing down the total available yellow corn to 3.39 million metric tons. This, however, will fall short of the estimated corn requirement of the livestock, poultry and aquaculture sectors at 4.62 million metric tons.

Last year, the country's total corn production was 3.2 million metric tons while requirement was 4.47 million metric tons. Importation last year reached 268,000 metric tons.

Pinca said the industry had requested the importation of 700,000 metric tons but the Department of Agriculture approved only 600,000 metric tons to be delivered in two batches. The first 300,000 should be shipped within the first half of the year while the other 300,000 should be shipped no later than December 2007.

Corn imports are being sold to earlier end-users including poultry, hog and feedmill integrators through bidding.

Among the end users who avail themselves of the imported corn were the Philippine Feedmillers Inc., Philippine Association of Feedlot Integrators and the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc.

Will administrator Jesus T. Navarro said the corn importation was done following the directives of the DA, which acted on the request of hog and poultry feed integrators to import the commodity to avoid any feed increases in the prices of meat and feeds.

Navarro said yellow corn is a major ingredient for animal feeds, its importation would keep the livestock and poultry producers at affordable prices. However, end-users would be charged a service fee of P 1.00 a bike and another P0.50 a kg for the Corn Development Fund (CDF).

NAVARRO

The CDF funds is used to develop the country's corn industry.

Navarro added that to date, a total of about P43 million worth of projects were being financed by the CDF in the form of soft-term loans and grants.

Among these projects are a P16-million integrated corn-cheese plant in the towns of Pilar, Limay del Sur and Alfonso Lista, Ifugao; a P16-million corn mechanization service and trading center in Mauice, Cagayan; an P8.3-million integrated corn's farming system in Mangini, Pangasinan; and a P4.3 million grains service and marketing center in Isabela, Cebu. A total of P18.4-million worth of grants were also given to projects.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Edited by Cielito D. Mangaoang

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Cholesterol-lowering drug good for healthy people, study says

By Charles E. Ramos

FOR PEOPLE TAKING DRUGS KNOWN AS STATINS to lower their blood levels of bad cholesterol, new evidence released Thursday suggests that the medicines can also help healthy people who have normal cholesterol levels but are at risk for heart problems.

The findings, from a study of more than 17,000 people in Britain, Ireland and New Zealand, are the latest to show that statins can help prevent heart attacks and strokes in people who have not yet developed any symptoms of heart disease.

Statins are already widely prescribed for people who have had heart attacks or strokes, or who have high cholesterol levels. The drugs work by blocking the liver's production of cholesterol, a substance that can clog arteries and cause heart attacks and strokes.

The study, published in the British medical journal The Lancet, found that people who took statins had a 24 percent lower risk of heart attacks and strokes than those who took a placebo.

The study's lead author, Dr. Peter Sever of Imperial College London, said the findings showed that statins could help people who had a 10-year risk of heart disease of 15 percent or more, even if their cholesterol levels were normal.

"The benefits of statins are not restricted to those with high cholesterol," Sever said in a statement. "Even those with normal cholesterol will benefit from statins if they are at high risk of heart disease."

Sever said the study showed that statins could help prevent heart attacks and strokes in people who had a 10-year risk of heart disease of 15 percent or more, even if their cholesterol levels were normal.

The study, which was funded by the British Heart Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and Pfizer, the maker of the statin drug Lipitor, found that people who took statins had a 24 percent lower risk of heart attacks and strokes than those who took a placebo.

PNOC unit close to sealing biodiesel refinery deal with Chemrez

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC ALTERNATIVE FUELS CORP., a subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co., continues to negotiate with biodiesel manufacturer Chemrez Technologies Inc. for the establishment of a 200,000-metric ton (MT) biodiesel refinery.

In a telephone interview, Chemrez Tech chief operating officer Deon Laubscher said the company was nearing the signing of a memorandum of understanding with PNOC-AFC on the project.

"We're still on the discussion stage now, trying to resolve some commercial issues. But the signing of an MOU seems to be where we're going," he said.

He explained that it would make sense for Chemrez Tech to team up with PNOC-AFC, considering that the latter can possibly be able to provide a good location for the planned biodiesel facility.

"PNOC-AFC will be a logical partner for us and Bataan Petrochem Tech would be a good location for a new refinery. It's [a] logical deal for partners with them," he said.

He said Chemrez Tech would be able to satisfy the criteria that PNOC-AFC had set in selecting partners.

Brittany Corp. creates a new skyline with Avant at The Fort

Pioneering has always been an operating principle for innovative real estate projects developer Brittany Corporation. At the forefront of innovation, it has literally and figuratively broken many new ground and eclipsed the field to create one-of-a-kind architecturally planned properties that are not only unique but have come to define trends in the industry.

To name a few, the expansive Northbay development has brought fully to Manila Newton Island has found a home in Tagaytay with Tuscan-inspired CrownWoods, and the postcard icon of San Francisco along with its laid back lifestyle, has arrived in the Philippines by Brittany Bay.

Typical of Brittany Corp. to take things a step further, it has also embarked on reshaping the skyline as well. Master of Brittany Bay to latest and Mosaic of Greenhill are among its latest vertical residential developments that offer unique perspectives tailor-made to provide an escape from the urban jungle.

Once again breaking new ground, the two within the famed Greenhill City, is Brittany Corp.'s most recent development that strengthens the property developer's ownership claim. Overlapping what is perhaps the last remaining area within the much-sought after "golden triangle" at the heart of the Cross on Park Street, Avant at The Fort is a collection of highest-level aspects.

"We are extremely excited to offer Avant at The Fort. This is one of our hallmark masterpieces — one that has challenged us to be unrelentingly creative from the architecture and building to the interiors of every living space inside," Brittany Corp. president Jing Soriano enthused.

With respect to vertical developments, Avant will transcend conventional condo living with its refreshing interior design and artfully experimented architectural design. More importantly, Avant at The Fort will adopt a philosophy of environmental responsiveness through the practice of green architecture.

Avant at The Fort will be designed to the last square inch to bring forth not only an architecturally beautiful vertical residential development but one that is also well-designed on the inside.

"We at Brittany Corp. are very confident that Avant at The Fort will set another trend in vertical residential properties. More importantly, we believe that this will pave the way in changing the market's perception and expectations and will raise the quality of living in the urban areas. In order to truly accomplish development we are proud to include in our portfolio of properties," concluded Jing Soriano.

A preview for the Avant at The Fort will be held on April 19, 2007, Thursday, at The Embassy to give interested clients a sneak peek of what is in store for future residents of this inspired property destined to lead the way in vertical residential developments.

Brittany Corporation is a real estate real estate developer of innovative and creative lifestyles. Its clients and clientele portfolio includes Brittany Bay, CrownWoods, Forbeswoods, Cavegan Club, The Islands and Mosaic at Greenhills. With master-planned communities steeped in elements, stylistic and thematic appeal, each architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the land and ocean landscape.

For inquiries and sales encounters, please call 817-4000 or 916-2444.

AEV infuses ₱4B into power unit

Fund for Magat plant acquisition

By Elizabeth Sarafino-Lacson

HOLDING FIRM ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES (AEV) said it had infused P4 billion into wholly owned power subsidiary Aboitiz Power Corp. The amount will be used to partly pay for Magat hydropower complex, which was recently acquired by APC in the privatization of Transco.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, AEV said it had subscribed to an additional 400 million common shares in APC at P10 a share.

With the recent subscription, AEV now holds a total of 3.4 billion common shares in APC.

It is also reported that APC and SN Power — through Joint venture firm SN Aboitiz Power Inc. — submitted the highest bid of P336 million for the Magat hydroelectric power plant in Isabela. The 360-MW facility is seen to ensure that double APC's power generating capacity.

Also, AEV earlier approved the initial public offering (IPO) of APC. This, however, is subject to the approval of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Bureau of Internal Revenue and other pertinent regulatory authorities.

AEV also appointed financial advisor for the IPO.

The board also approved the consolidation of all of AEV's power assets and their transfer to APC in exchange for shares.

The PSE has assured AEV that the share listing rule would not be an obstacle to the proposed listing and IPO of APC.

"The public offering is consistent with the spirit of Republic Power Industry Reform Act [Epira] for broader public ownership of electricity distribution and generation assets," AEV said.

"The offering will also enhance APC's position as a participant in the privatization of Napocor [National Power Corp.] assets, as well as in the development and acquisition of additional power projects," AEV said in its disclosure to PSE.

MacroAsia buys out partner

HOLDING FIRM MACROASIA CORP. (MAC) said on Thursday it had gained the full ownership of MacroAsia Airfreight Aviation Corp., which was established as a joint venture with global aviation support provider Menzies Aviation Group.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, MAC said it had acquired the 39-percent share of its UK-based partner to gain full control of the ground handling unit.

"The divestment by Menzies Aviation Group followed a strategic review of its global operations, following Menzies had taken the decision to exit from various markets. As a rule, Menzies does not make significant investments today unless they have the market to ownership and full operational control," MAC explained to the PSE.

MacroAsia Menzies is the only airport ground handling services provider that is present in the three airport terminals in Manila: the domestic terminal, the Ninoy terminal which all international, non-Philippine airlines flights, and the Naia 2 or Centennial Terminal, the home of Philippine Airlines. It is also present in Davao and Cebu. Ryan T. Hechanova

KIA RIO IS 2006 SUB-COMPACT CAR AT COTY-P AWARDS

The new Kia Rio emerged victorious in the Subcompact Car category in the recently concluded 2006 Car of the Year Philippines Awards, organized by the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi).

The Kia Rio bested the Chevrolet Spark, Chevrolet Aveo, Hyundai Getz and Suzuki Swift in the category that included sedans, hatchbacks and wagons priced at P750,000 and below.

At the awards night held at the Greenwich Tent at Makati March 8, 2007, the Kia Rio joined 10 other category winners from last year's members and the 2006 Car of the Year, the Honda Civic 1.8S.

The prestigious Car of the Year Philippines came at the heels of rigorous assessment and qualification testing done by members of the Cagi. Testing committees spanning seven weeks from mid-October 2006 to February 2007 put twelve vehicles assessed to 11 categories and other special awards were tested at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

The instrumented test included acceleration and braking capabilities measured by state-of-the-testing equipment. The auditorium test consisted guide parameters concerning interiors, design, safety, handling, driver vis-

ABS-CBN eyes hike in advertising rates

Cites lead in first nationwide survey

By Rizz T. Dichoso

MEDIA GIANT ABS-CBN BROADCASTING Corp. wants to raise its advertising rates by 5 to 7 percent, citing its lead in a nationwide survey of audience share undertaken by AGB Nielsen Media Research in mid-2006 and early 2007.

"The price increase will be retroactive to February," said Miguel Jose Navarrete, ABS-CBN chief finance officer, during a briefing for investors and analysts Thursday.

"ABS-CBN has kept its advertising rates flat over the past three years," he said. "We're trying to take advantage of our improved audience share in order to realize [an] increase in our ad sales."

AGB Nielsen officially unveiled its nationwide urban television audience measurement (Nuram) on Oct. 16, 2006 to determine the standing of local television networks and the audience share of TV programs in urban areas nationwide. The survey is broader in scope than the "Mega Manila" study, which only covers Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

In the Mega Manila study, GMA continues to lead audience share in the last quarter of 2006. It commands 41 percent of viewership as opposed to ABS-CBN's 38 percent.

The nationwide study, meanwhile, showed that ABS-CBN has increased 47 percent of audience viewership, beating rival GMA Network Inc., which garnered 35 percent.

In terms of ratings, ABS-CBN had 19 percent, while GMA had 14 percent. The data was gathered from March 4 to 24, 2007.

The Kantar Media survey from Oct. 8 to 13, 2006 also showed ABS-CBN in the lead, with 40 percent viewership, while GMA garnered 35 percent.

Navarrete said ABS-CBN is confident that the the larger geographical measurement coverage will draw advertisers' attention more than the Mega Manila study. The network hopes that the advertisers will allocate more TV investments to ABS-CBN.

"We expect advertisers to consider the national standpoint," Navarrete said.

Idle Lopez unit turned into holding firm

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE LOPEZ GROUP IS ENDORSING DISsident listed firm City Investments Corp. to be the holding company for its oil trade and infrastructure business under the group's First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) and Benpres Holdings Corp.

City Investments is currently 91.6-percent owned by Lopez Inc.

In a disclosure, FPHC said its board had already approved the transfer of FPHC shares to First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (FPIDC) to City Investments, in exchange for shares of common stock in City Investments.

FPHC is the main vehicle used by the Lopez Group to oversee its toll road infrastructure projects in the Philippines.

FPIDC is a subsidiary of Benpres and FPHC. Benpres owns 49 percent of FPIDC, while FPHC owns the balance of 51 percent.

Both FPHC and Benpres are listed companies with investments in power generation, power distribution, infrastructure, manufacturing, property, telecommunications and other related businesses.

On the other hand, FPIDC owns 67.1 percent of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), 46 percent of Tollways Management Corp. and 100 percent of Luzon Toll ways.

MNTC has the concession to the North Luzon Expressway (NLE) and Tollways Management Corp. (MNTC) operator for the NLE.

After the transfer of shares, City Investments will become a majority-owned subsidiary of FPHC and Lopez company FPIDC.

Benpres and other minority shareholders will own the remaining shares.

Sources said that, after the share swap, FPHC would own around 51 percent of City Investments, while Benpres would hold 49 percent.

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...reduction and value for money feature amid the vehicles rating a 1-to-5 scale (5 being the highest possible mark).

The Vios this manufactured by Kia Motors of Korea and distributed in the Philippines by Columbian Autocar Corporation, is not new to the awards game. The Vios was named the Highest Ranked Sub-compact Car in the 100 Fastest and Awesome Initial Quality Study conducted in 1996, outranking 227 vehicles from 31 companies including driving experience, engine and transmission, and overall range of quality problems by actual vehicle owners.

The Kia subcompact also was approved from a pool of influential motoring writers in 12 Eastern European which voted the Vios winner of the prestigious European 2000 award for being "the new car most suitable for the needs of the populations of the region with new technology and refined after sales."

The Kia Vios also won the Autobytel "Editors' Choice Award for Most Improved New Car" distributed Inc., a one of the most visited automotive group sites on the internet, and recognizes vehicles awards that offer the best combination of value, quality, design and performance on the market, according to the editors and automotive analysts of the company's popular website autobytel.com. For more information on the awards and other Kia models, see www.kia.com and autobytel.com.

The get-away vehicle of the affluent

A RAPTURE IN THE ONE HOME LUXE is buried in most larger Asian homes. While nothing in rooms seems may be a European, visitors there are dozen stroud, the bath tub, which allows one to go away even for just a few moments, has become a part of the ambiance ritual of the affluent and religious.

The variety of baths ranges probably to almost all home depots today emphasize its popularity. Most in the market are either jacuzzi-inspired and steel, or acrylic or fiberglass. The latter tends to and most essentially joined is acrylic...especially the built-in type as walled along a wall or a corner. Popular, the tub is also more in the open much space. Tucked close to the wall, it gives one a sense of shelter too.

Things to consider

Here are some considerations to keep in mind when selecting a tub:

• Design. Consider your bathroom size and configuration. Tub fixtures and other accessories will help various down your options. Because tub bathing is sentimental, make your tub as a focal point, so it highlights the whole ritual of bathing. At least, incorporating models plays on drama rather than planning efficiency and require a generous amount of floor space and light.

• Contour. Some tubs look attractive but are not ergonomically designed. Find one that is comfortable for your posture, let one, determine how the interior contours flow with the natural curves of your body and tailored resting positions of your soles and legs.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer
Interiorista

• Depth. Regular tubs are shallower and longer while soaking tubs (like the so-called Japanese and Greek tubs) are shorter and deeper.

• Material. Permanence is the call are the porcelain-enameled cast iron tubs. Acrylic is said in the trend here...and more affordable...thing. Lone durable would be fiberglass. For darker colors, check for fading resistance. There are also cast-in-place tubs which allow you to custom finish the surface with other tiles, natural stone or solid surface (synthetic stone) materials.

• Function. There are bubble and there are whirlpools. There are manual controls and there are remote control. Keep it simple. The more functional features you have, the more risk of malfunctioning parts.

• Water. Who would like to sit in a tub that sounds like a blender? Look for a whirlpool you can actually use for some kinds. Some brands sell a quiet range, made specifically for the noise-sensitive and the spa and wellness market. The point is to select a machine that will allow you to imagine you are soaking in the blue waters of the Maldives, and not inside your soaking machine while on a time setting.

• Maintenance. Look for a brand that has a local warranty and service. Verify functions of access and maintenance panels and make sure this is provided when the tub is set in place.

• Safety. There is quite a lot to look out for to consider safety:

— Non-slip traps to the surfaces and inside your tub or stall floor.

— Sweet rubber tubs surface are cliff-stall to step into and are comfort prone.

— Grab bars should be provided especially in areas where there are changes in floor levels.

The bottom line is to find a tub that suits your lifestyle.

Life in living color

"I GREW UP WITH EITHER TERRA cotta or white walls with wallpaper," recent and TV host recounted. Junior Janice de Belen explains why her new three-story townhouse in Quezon City sports a blue-green palette.

At 30, Janice decided it was about time she lived the way she wanted to.

In mid, bright but calming colors, that is. And for the new makeover, blackpaint. Dr. E Bell Sonia Cairne (Manchester) stepped in and blended a multiple color scheme for the home with the furnishings, upbeat mood and simplicity of the owner.

Janice wants from dark and dull to bright and light without sacrificing her sense of style. Or these some inviting practical, quiet and economical. Then I was introduced to Chesbrough's micro-modern Jazz Concept at their showroom and I was so impressed," Janice says.

Quality paints

The fully-acrylic Pearl Luster coating (the exclusive brand Dr. E Bell Select Paints, the No. 1 paint manufacturer in the United States) has the Photo Epoxidation Epoxy that makes and gives the paint its colors that customers want. It not only measures the color combinations but also directs the customer's information in case of repeat orders. She also assures that Nanotechnology's quality paints are odorless and quick-dry.

Janice chose soothing blue and calming green tones. Special colors are set against a background of textiles—the kitchen, living and dining room walls and hallways were painted with mint green to go with natural-hued wood console tables, lowers and white sofa, extra rug, orange candles, modern flower arrangements (also courtesy of Handicraft), Roman blinds, ceiling fan, low lighting and a pair of Buddha statues. There are also cast-in-place

THE DINING room after the paint makeover. (Zen dining center photo is courtesy of Robinsons Department store.)

JANICE'S family is now cooling off with creamy accessories and a fresh-inspired palette.

Kids' rooms

Home accents such as the caramel brown throw pillows, faux-lining eyes, toppers, designer candles and trendy picture frames for the kids' rooms came from Robinsons Department Store.

The kids' rooms are either blue or green with hint of bright, dramatic colors. Their boys' bedroom has a playful play-study bedroom while Bayu Lang's room represents every inch of a young man's interests and personality.

"There is a workspace which houses a cabinet of Janice's six-year 'giraffe' collection (DEs and books, bath, blocks and dolls, all in their "rooms," figures in a room. Individually, I threw on I dropped mint green bed with lots of drawers for all their gadgets and.

"I want me and my kids to be able to on my chairs without worrying the rug will get dirty. We want a space where we could play and have fun! ... and the best!"

A fresh coat of paint goes a long way. It is more than a face-lift, as it can improve the quality of life in any personal environment— from simply brightening a reluctant room to providing a calming retreat. Handyman Do-It-Best Bolted Paints do that—it's a chore to a can, a pallet of glamour and a mine-le makeover.

WITH IT'S recent exciting and variety of recreational amenities, Ayala Greenfield Estates has become the perfect place to unwind and commune with nature.

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

Prime nesting ground for birds and people

THE CAPACITY OF AYALA GREENFIELD Estates to support bio-diversity was recently confirmed by a scientific study that documented the presence of 31 species and 23 families of endemic and migratory birds in the area.

Tarsiers, deers, cuscuses, civetkens, monkeypinchers, bullheads, flowery peckers and white-eyes flit about dark and play hide-n-seek among the birds like swallows, seagulls and finches when winter settles in the West. Nature enthusiasts will be delighted to know that the community's status as a bird sanctuary will continue to be preserved in future years.

3 clubhouse gyms

Ayala Greenfield Estates is a residential development of Ayala Land President in Columbia, Laguna. Its unique elevated location provides eye-contiguous views of three cherished gems of the Southern Tagalog landscape: Mount Banahaw, Laguna de Bay and Tagaytay Ridge. A world-class 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones is also located within the boundaries of the property.

Giggie Lagos, project manager for Ayala Greenfield Estates, explains that working around the natural terrain of the site helped minimize earth movement during the construction phase. "Our goal is to preserve the beauty of the nature trees and wildlife in the area were preserved and the environmental impact of development was downscaled," he says. Roads were built following the natural slope and contour of the property, while most of the mature trees that served as homes for birds were left untouched. A formal inventory conducted by an expert reported that Ayala Greenfield Estates has contained a notable habitat for wild trees and many other species despite numerous development activities.

Postcard-perfect views

With homes ranging from 400 to 800 square meters, homes in Ayala Greenfield Estates showed with postcard-perfect views of woodlands and balconies, as well as the most famous natural mountain of Philippine folklore, Mount Banahaw and one of Southeast Asia's largest lakes Laguna de Bay). The community also incorporates amenities that build on what nature has to offer, among them are a 13 hectare Nature Park with a fishing lagoon, camping grounds, open playfield, animal farm, river houses and hiking trails, a village clubhouse, coffee shop, fitness gym, an infinity pool and a children's pool.

Also, notes that Ayala Greenfield Estates, which is 45 kilometers away from the CBD and the South Luzon Expressway, a fully-refurbished in just over two years. Despite this increased access proximity, he says Ayala Land Premier will not increase the density of the development. Half the lands in Ayala Greenfield will remain in close touch with their undisturbed natural surroundings.

Assurance

Developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corp., the Ayala Greenfield Estates community is managed by Ayala Land Premier, the next in line of premier lifestyle brand names in the Philippines. With Ayala Land Premier's innovative design, exceptional engineering and superior property management, you are assured of a distinctive home that increases in value over time, even as it provides you with an unmatched security of lifestyle.

For further information about Ayala Greenfield Estates, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com, or e-mail ale@ayalalandpremier.com.

Camella's Cerritos: exclusivity and accessibility

CAMELLA HOMES IS COMMUNITIES, the Philippines' largest home builder which has built houses and communities for more than 150,000 Filipino families in Bicutan, Camella is now developing its newest community in Imang Hill, Alabang, that takes its mission of providing "a roof over every Filipino's head" to a new level.

Combining exclusivity with accessibility and an impressive range of products, Camella Cerritos has homes and lots ranging from P1.2 to P5.6 million, affording residents the best of both worlds: the serenity of a gated community and proximity to the best that the southern metro of Sen, including shopping malls, schools, churches, hotels, business centers, recreation facilities and transportation.

Enviable location

Camella Cerritos boasts an enviable location that is only five minutes away from the Alabang commercial district. Being first to the entry point from the South Super road or key, being the Zapote-Alabang road, Alabang-Muntinlupa highway, while nothing more to C-5, Quirino Avenue and Aguinaldo Highway.

Adjoining an artfully-combined Cash, Iberian Mediterranean thematic concept, Camella Cerritos, with a mediumsized of 30 hectares and only 457 low

available, creates efficiencies in the layout of homes and beauty in their designs, while providing the necessary room and spaces for the residents to quietness of a growing family. The spacious community in the making is complemented by central amenities that feature a clubhouse, swimming pool, basketball court, parks and a playground, hub, landscaped gardens.

Security needs

A lovely, carefully designed town entrance gate with a guardhouse literally embodies and the fulfillment of security needs, which will also be served with 24-hour security and a perimeter fence around the entire community. Common infrastructure consists of an underground drainage system, a central and water system with an above-ground water tank and Meralco power.

Each home will be outfitted with individual septic tanks as well as power and water meters. To ensure the proper upkeep of Camella Cerritos, a professional property management group will maintain the community and administer the affairs of the homeowners' association.

Built to last

Camella Cerritos features seven home models to choose from, starting with Lara, designed to a twin-attached configuration with a 99 sq m floor area and 70 sq m of lot area: 27 m x 10 m), with a spacious family room, two bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, a toilet and bath, and provisions for a carport. The six other models are two-storey single-detached homes: Delia, Celine, Carmela, Florida and Harmony, the latter with a spacious floor area of 101 sq m and a lot area of 130 sq m, recently marketing. Each includes a model's room, a family hall, two toilets and baths, a powder room, a balcony, a carport, a counter in the service area and provisions for a lanai.

Camella Cerritos homes are built to last, with walls consisting of hard-burning blocks, steel roof framing with roof tiles, a Tuscan system for the second storey, concrete walls painted and tiled finished with decorative moldings, tiles and baths surfaced with displayed ceramic tiles, second-story partitions made of flexible or wood framing, the ceiling consisting of steel furring, and the kitchen counter top featured with glazed ceramic tiles with a stainless steel kitchen and wooden cabinets underneath, and windows built out of tempered safe-tempered.

With highly attractive payment options for buyers, Camella Cerritos is a winner of a chance for future residents to own a piece of a quality home in a gated community close to the Alabang commercial district, at a cost commensurate with their hard-earned resources.

PROPERTY

Edited by Cesar G. Mangahas

Highway completion vital to regional growth

By Charles E. Rubio

FOR YEARS, THE BASES CONVERSION and Development Authority has been involved in transforming military base properties into productive industrial, commercial, residential and tourism zones.

Two years ago, the agency embarked on a relatively different project that will have an impact on regional development in Central Luzon.

"The Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project is a major infrastructure undertaken to support development in the Central Luzon region," Rubio Gervacio, program manager for operational support of BCDA's SCTEX project, said.

He said the 593 billion road network will link two of the country's most important economic zones—the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga—as well as some of the emerging economic hubs further north in Tarlac and up to La Union.

Without further delay

That is why Gervacio said the May 17 target date (of completion) of SCTEX should be met without further delay.

Germania is awarding to the filing of a notice to cancel the work of one group of contractors—the Baiman Corp., Dacuycuy Corp., JPC Engineering Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. joint venture...early this month.

The group is in charge of SCTEX's Package 1 or the 31-km stretch in Clark regions.

Gervacio believed an extension, if granted, would raise the possibility of another year's delay to click the ribbon.

Inquirer.net pinned to Southeast Asia's leading logistics hub.

Longest

Touted to be the longest in the country, the 94-km road network is part of the super-region concept President Macapagal-Arroyo advocated during her 2000 State of the Nation Address.

Such enlarged grouping of the regions would boost economic and market potentials beyond what each region can generate, with economies of scale, synergies and complementation that will be more globally competitive.

"The completion of SCTEx is vital to the success in Central Luzon as it will certainly boost tourism as well as provide a faster and cheaper way for farmers to transport their agricultural products to the markets," he concluded.

Avida

Affordable living at its best

CLUBHOUSE OPENING AND LAUNCH OF TOWER 5 SOON!

Avida Towers Sucat to launch Clubhouse on April 15

Avida Land will host a Brazilian-inspired party on April 15, Sunday, to celebrate the launch of the clubhouse of Avida Towers Sucat in Parañaque. It will also reveal the soon to be launched Tower 5. Unit owners of this dynamic community and potential buyers will enjoy an afternoon of face painting, creating their own masks as well as samba performances.

Avida Towers Sucat is a strategically located condominium development which offers studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units with prices ranging from P968,000 to P2.3 million. It is located along Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat Road), right across SM Sucat in Parañaque. Because of its proximity to major thoroughfares, the airport, shopping centers, schools, hospitals and other major institutions, Avida Towers Sucat has been selling briskly to young couples, single professionals, Overseas Filipinos, and entrepreneurs.

Towers 1 and 2 are completely sold out. Tower 3 and 4 are respectively set for completion in 2008 and 2009 and selling briskly. The project's high take-up rates have in fact spurred the planned launching of Tower 5 this April.

On the same day, Avida Land will formally open the two-storey Mediterranean-themed clubhouse and swimming pool, just in time for the summer season. The social hall will serve as venue for summer parties, get-togethers, birthday and baptismal parties, debuts and wedding receptions. A courtyard, play area and jogging path are also available.

Aside from the amenities, Avida Towers Sucat provides 24/7 security, adequate power and water supply, concierge service and property management through the Ayala Property Management Corp.

Avida Towers Sucat

Be part of Avida Towers Sucat's much awaited Clubhouse Opening through a celebration of music, food and festivities!
April 15, 2007, 10am to 7pm

Pool Villetta as we reveal the soon to be Launched Tower 5.

www.avidaland.com • Call 753-1111

An active lifestyle within reach

IN A MOVE TO INTEGRATE OUTDOOR exercise and play into the daily life of middle-class families, San Rafael Estates is offering landscaped parks, trails and play areas within its 26-hectare development in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

San Rafael Estates is a project of Avida, the affordable housing arm of Ayala Land. The road mountain biking and the picturesque clubhouse are main attractions reserved for the San Rafael Residents to engage in rest and recreational activities right inside their community.

Play areas

Positioned centrally within the village, the designated greenery and play areas are safe and conducive for exercise and outdoor family bonding. They are located at strategic areas of the development so that residents can easily incorporate these activities into their lifestyle. The plan to develop pocket parks was further inspired by the location of San Rafael at the foot of the idyllic Mt. Makiling, an eco-tourism site.

San Rafael Country Estates residents keep trim and fit, while enjoying the company of their family and neighbors. Apparently in the early mornings and on weekends, groups of residents enjoy walking, jogging, basketball or golf or doing laps in the village swimming pool. The integration of sports facilities into the community has made it easier for them to include exercise in their lifestyle.

Masterplanned community

San Rafael Estates is a masterplanned community by Avida Land Corp., Avida Land Corp., Greenfields Development Corp. and Batangas Assets Corp. The developers are now marketing and developing Phase 5 of San Rafael, which will offer 1,000 lots with an average size of 105 sq m. The lot sizes are priced at an average of P5,250 per sqm.

It has three Amerian-colonial designs for the houses and lot packages—the 119-sq-m Madison (from P625,000 million), the 115-sq-m Albany (P5.7 97 million), and the 100-sq-m Camden (P5.3 P63 million).

Monthly take-up

Since it was offered last year, Phase 3 has been enjoying a monthly take-up of 11 units. Majority of the buyers in San Rafael Estates are established couples in their 30s looking for an investment or seeking to upgrade their residence.

San Rafael Estates has primarily buyers, 24/7 security, adequate water and power supply, wide road networks, bigger lot cuts and individual utilities. It is also a community which provide homeowners the assurance that an Avida community will always be a neighborhood to come home to over the years.

For more information about San Rafael Estates, call Jardine number 753-1111 or visit www.avidaland.com.

THE COOL mountain breeze from Mt. Makiling, landscaped parks and walk and play areas are sufficient reasons for residents of San Rafael Estates to engage in rest and recreation activities inside their community.

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THE STYLE DEER. Wearing an Fw coach at Ceia Lopez with her summer survival kit.

SUNSHINE IN MY HANDBAG! Celine Lopez says loves wearing her Prada and Pinko

Celine till sunrise

I REMEMBER VERY CELINE VIVO plain. Okay let me take that back. She was never really plain. Back then she already had that quite chic mode for mixing our from the rest. She would already dress in a more pointed way, to a least days and hers alone. She would also opt full for the "wrong" seats, and I would be like these sure she would share the scene to (), in return, would never. Take my invitation to her "breakup" arrest. Still, whatever happened, she would pick herself up, color her shin, dab some moisturizer on and buy Brazo Cargo, not the breakfast model but her beloved chihuahuas.

But even before the trappings of notoriety and media breakfasts, Celine has always known her self. We would spend time at Jobbi in at my other 24 hour joint without taking a single sip of alcohol, just sharing our dreams and how we see our future (if ever). Yes, billboards included.

Once it is friendship (and others even birthday call it a rivalry but we just laugh it off) that is low-maintenance. We do not need to treat (if exhausting encounters. Knowing that when we see each other, either I'm seven night or quiet time or each other's homes—that's not all being locked in normal, like Jack & Jill or school buddies that never lost touch.

Bible study sessions

During (unforgettable but awesome) when we were starting our walk our careers, she would cross (play the part of my "walking self" by saying (his) opposite tastes. He would help every (Cosmo) and she would apply makeup on me. "Hot too much, Celine," I warned her. When I saw the post-event pictures of that particular event, I looked like Ruby Arenas.

On (the afternoons) we would have "Bible" study sessions flipping through the pages of the Tatler, giving our rare (other) words of opinion on who did what, who should do what and what the "F" is that? How she has moved on to Swiss Dillon.

Celine was the first one to open my eyes to the (sense) of her house in San Francisco where I didn't want anyone to know I was buying over a tryst up. Yes, it's the "group" (still is what you were). I use the described one. They call me the Tough Love, Celine is Miss Emotional. Somehow, without breaking her record, she has managed to cry at many birthday party and mayor launch (she's famous for both). Her last tears were because Courtney Love and she had wanted for

Tim Yap

me for an hour or so (and that's no phenomenon...every again, Celine!). But I think she has come to her senses and told me that I am "the Love (camera)" first, that's what I love about this girl, she can be overemotive, (e.g., she experiences, crazy, moody, etc....but you'll know for sure when she loves you... She'll make you feel it like no one else can.... But if she doesn't, then beware!

Celine has truly come out of her once monochromatic Calvin Klein shell (that was what she wore for her prom) and has gone for a (crazy mixed) of colors and patterns. These fabrics have now become her canvas, aside from her effortless control of the written word. Bow ouzo "printed" (that now, for Celine, I have grown with is playful, adventurous and sensitive. When she showed me her (gemstones) line for (coral Reveal Photos and Pricks), I was so proud of her. That's the kind of friendship we share—approved no formality, interested by a genuine concern for each other and sealed with those loyalty—you matters what other people say.

Plain party wear

Mellinda, (she and a) friend(ing) Ged Phales and Peter is (doing their) new style survey (cutomers) a great service by zeroing out which a line by Celine. Just last week, Super(s) David Milan, pointed out some pleb wearing the Phales and Prince Celine line of (cashmere) blend. Red for plain party wear?

She married only (a) few months, (now she's doing) headwarmer (up) deadly(ly) stylish. Celine used to be the biggest bitch here I know, but now, she is happy with her label of self-(creating) products. She's been a serial-(seeker, (looking) to host parties to her new (for (she goes Gaga)! Best (like to) see her new place to (be) women) and just meeting (e) with friends (for she selectively) invites.

There is (till) so much to write about Celine Lopez. Beyond the clutches, the words and the (tricks that she) uses to (show it) people (for) every (tick is our girl that goes beyond the) plain and the printed.

HERE COMES THE SUN. For Celine, the new day has begun

MARLBORO PLACES MANILA AT THE FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL CLUBBING

The M Party definitely satisfied many a partygoer hungry for a night worth remembering; at the same time, it whetted the collective appetite for more, with so many asking when the next one will be. While the gold standard for a lot of things remain "Five Star" or "Goode-A", it's safe to say that for parties and partying, only the rare and truly remarkable will be marked with MARLBORO's M.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

Boulevard of broken themes

Tired titles, played out plotlines–are movies totally interchangeable these days? Discuss.

Age against the machine

Gina de la Paz

FOR SOME REASON, I've come to call it the Dennis Dreher Moment.

It's a film that takes an old narrative and twists it, bends it into something truly imaginative and unintended emotions. It doesn't need to have a profound message and stuff. Best cinematic subject for is merely inspire pathos and awe in easily-fascinated me.

In the case of John Gilliland's fanciful movie (after which I named this Moment), it was a tale of adolescent angst coupled with a robust ball bunny mingled with thoughts of time travel and so, 1984. It sounds like a full-on melee, but the Dennis Dreher Moment doesn't necessarily have to be a summer story. It could be anything, really.

Movie landfill in my mind

Though my pop culture consciousness consists of low-classic late-'90s date rubables, I consider this decade, the Zeroes as the time I really started consuming films in all their bouncy glory. Sifting through the movie landfill in my mind, 2002's "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" and "Igby Goes Down" come up first—a cool tie—followed by the compelling "Life of God."

A stained lung from 2004 is some Lilo-and-Stitch episode "It's All Gone Pete Tong." Football flick "Bend It Like Beckham" is the dark and quirky "Kicking," which convinces you "Green Color" religious spoof "Saved!" and the biopic-ized "Ray" somehow of the Spielberg blend" 2006's "Little Children," again starring Kate Winslet but topping covers most despite this time, punctuates the line up for now.

As for 2007, I'm waiting to see if anything from that year's catalogue would make it to the list. Which, I assume, is about "Which is unfortunately the problem. It seems that my Dennis Dreher Moments are becoming less frequent even as the horde of movies around me increases. Gilm, why is that? Allow me to feel the time at this year.

Stale popcorn and culdesacd familiarity

At first I thought my Cinephile Senses have gotten rusty (again). Then again, I'm also close to thinking "Movie Guilt" in my roll call. (I briefly considered "Mayberry Depressing," but I found it rig, and unfitting, so no.) Honestly, it could be this:

I think I realized that the movies boarding about now have stood older and hardened symptoms. Most likely that was just a ruby-red slipper-less office-related notion of stale popcorn and culdesacd familiarity. And Christ's sake, I guess, it's hard to get all excited about movies these days.

Lame names

Let's start with something basic but has nonetheless encouraged many a unsentential head scratch: movie titles.

The recent offenders: "The Good Shepherd" and "The Good Germans," say good, seeming bad, examples. One is about a murder investigation while the other is about the early history of the Central Intelligence Agency. Any guesses as to which one's by Zeroes... Both of these are completely interchangeable with a number of accompanying movie identities: modern and generic. To make one from much earlier, the two movies should've gotten blended into one movie moniker: "The Good German Shepherd."

While we're on the subject, what about "Sunshine" and "Little Miss

LAND OF THE DRINKING DEAD: Cancun tell the difference between Bebe boozers in "Survivor" and "The Real Cancun"

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: Stunts still a must from "The Prestige" (left) and "The Illusionist"

Fruit goodness you can have anytime, anywhere.

Enjoy the taste of fruits to go!

Sunshine?" Or "After The Sunset" and "Before Sunset?" Or "Stomp The Yard," "The Longest Yard," "The Rookie Nine Yards," and "Barnyard." (Or biblically, however, "Stomp The Yard" is a derivative of "Not Good Yard," which obviously like "Step It Up," "Into The Last Dream," and "Centre Stage." More on that in Vol. 2.)

These opposite movie names are certainly more evocative (cough) than the Greek "The" names that Hollywood has churned out—"The Ring," "The Ring 2," "The Grudge," "The Grudge 2," "The Forgotten," "The Reaping," blah blah blah—and they still make you wonder how on earth they made it past will.

Shallow, insecure guys pool

Second, it also looks like the cinematic genre pool has become shallower, producing inbred stray as a flat ensemble finds one answer in spite of one another. Case in point: the astonishingly unoriginally "Perfect" a title repeat "Big Momma's House," or whatever. How to tarnish a clue?

But moving on. If you're taking to see a mother-Oedipus American comedy's daughter-going pseudo-hurt-self, there's always Kate Hudson in "Bed Daughter" or Hands Moore in "Closing Liberty." Just add climate to cart to Matt scenario and bloody hell—it's Amazon Syrup to "What is Girl Water."

And going all dental-circus entertainer on your ass, it's time for a little word association. Anxiety. Prime plus Freddie Mandi equals "Big Pat Lies." Or was that "Agent Cody Banks?" Sorry, that was Hilary Duff plus Frankie Muniz, who weren't in "Spy Kids" apparently. But Hilary Duff was in "Cheaper By The Dozen," which you could easily mistake for "Years, Man, and Guns" or, uh, "Cheaper By The Dozen 2." Presidents' Day sales, spies, lots of kids in our frontlashes? Three enchantment points don't even count what is already been I lied. But you surmount.

Deja viewed

Meanwhile, if a movie about supposed kidnapping at 30,000 feet is more your thing (you mean that watch "Red Eye" or "Flightplan." Or not.) What if it were underwater and slightly cuter? You've got "Finding Nemo" and "Stuck Under Cover." Likewise, if you're yearning for magic in train-of-thought passenger, say DVDs of "The Illusionist" and the post man's "The Prestige."

How about stupid zombie flicks like "Dawn of the Dead," "Land of the Dead," and "28 Days Later?" Only if you've been dead for the upside. Or undead headstrong to spend a British parody "Shaun of the Dead," headlined by comic genius Simon Pegg (building on to zombies of the drinking, carousing, and totally disposable type, how does "The Hot Chicas" and its gory offshoot, "Tamales," sound? Or I have a dry heave? Is something.

One-trick ponies

Last, I'd most definitely "Hell" to this for movies, franchise, and full-sized ownership are much more attractive. (And therefore, hence.) Significant Hollywood producer/movie have become watch-convincingly dull because they tend to see work to convincingly dull screen.

Like, "Ghost Rider" is one of the most awful movies I've been unfortunate enough not to see. I mean, I could tolerate Nicolas Cage and his cousin-club bodyguard count so after part to watch him on the big screen or even on pointed PPV. I'm really proud to say I've never seen anything in his filmography which by the way tends to have names of the word "man" in it—"The Wicker Man," "The Weather Man," and "Matchstick Men." Bro no-hat.

Another amazing one-trick pony is Tim Allen, who seems to have a lock on any and all holiday movies. See, "The Santa Clause," "The Santa Clause 2," "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause," "Joyeux Noel," "Wild Hogs" are one and the same. Please don't make. Dream.

And proof that you don't have to "all" to be famous, Ashton Kutcher's career as a "serious actor" has always been dumb. That one of his movies trend on the name Silver or "Punk'd" persona is an overriding fact. It has even reached the point where you could tell his character apart anymore. "My Boss' Daughter," "Guess Who," and "Just Married" follow the same wooden, attractive formula, give or take Tori Reid, Brittany Murphy, or some other hyperbole. (Seriously, how does an actor like that keep getting work?) Either way, yours.

Totally Tarantino-weary

So, okay. On the one hand, it may sound harsh that I'm derailing on the cinematic art of self-referential films knowing very well that that's really their names. On the other hand, it's perfectly fine with turning the movies up and, you know, wrapping at the rather. But, they deserved for being so unacceptable and unimaginative.

Still, despite the fact that I'm so getting totally Tarantino-weary, I realize I have to keep watching films if I want to choose upon the movies. Dreher Moment is High on my to-watch list you see: "A Guide To Recognizing Your Saints" and "Bride," both coming of age stories, and chicly non-sensical dreams. They may be gold. They may be vanity projects (Jessica Alba, off to gold. Who the hell knows? One things I'm sure though. There's bound to be enjoyable sentenced somewhere along this book-and-broken dreams.

Super two

style . urban living . entertainment . recreation

LIVIN IT UP! Trying to surf island in Puerto Princesa

'Living it up' in Palawan

By Tim Yap
Photos by Ada Ortega

I NEVER THOUGHT I HAD IT IN me to climb trees. I must have been a monkey in my past life.

Upon you simply get inspired by the richness of your surroundings. You can throw me to a jungle and I'll surely have a great time and befriend the chimpanzees and the tribal folk (and then they'll give me to their gods to "eat living"). Throw me on a virgin forest, well as this one, virgin seas, pristine white beaches and shapely lieutenants and what do you get? "The Living It Up proves to Palawan" episode!

Mayor Edward Hagedorn pulled all stops for our QTV show director Jay Ortega as we hopped from historical city spots, went island hopping, held coconfiles, and even played with dolphins—yes, hundreds of them!!!

This is the on-location episode so we decided not to jump onto an island where the whole lifestyle was rambling. So we decided to invade the princess of ports—that's Puerto Princesa for you and me. There nearly fainted hay-seeds has a view that is to die for. I spent my work walking along the strip dying inside and I gave me that great surge of positive energy that one needs when one is on vacation. In this case, it was a working vacation, with a great camera crew and awesome show producers (shoutout to Direk Jay, Buddy Alix, Tina Ann, Mau, Nix, Arnjo, Mulay! Go Team!)

Beach bohemia

It was also a perfect bonding moment with the ex-hosts of the show. Mikki and Jose Gil-son and Gaby dela Merced who are water babies, all "living it up" in the truest sense of the word.

"Is it obvious that I am not a beach person?" Raymond Gutierrez asked us. For the

LIVING IN

THE NEWLYWEDS. Mikki and Patrick Gil-son on San Fernan

CHECK 'EE OUT. Mikki Gutierrez-Gil-son and Gaby dela Merced-Lopez with mascots and Ada Ortega

Feeling the cat

HOODIE you know you want

WISH upon a star

BOY in the hood

SPEED sensation

STREET chic

INTO the woods with mini-me Little Shoplyn Red Riding Hood

By Piers Pearce

YELLOW, anybody home?

I HAVE A NEW-found love affair with Puma.

It started early this year in Sin-tians. Who were told its Kampung-est town shopping mecca's be-cause stores are closed on Sundays.

But we walked through a train station and realised that this stores Rem-ains open.

I walked into one called Mayo Street and spotted black Puma boots. I tried them on, zipped them up and fell in love.

I headed straight over Into all the way back to Changi Airport where the boots from Dusseldorf had coin-

Set in Bangkok Traffic-the-same they wouldn't hire my luggage.

THEY Then drive Kiwi.

Pumas are all organ-ital Munich is too hot for boots like my Pumas but I don't care. They've been walking my world.

Last month, I ran around Sakadelmoya in Singapore in search of a big bag. I had finished my one not to close too much and needed a bag for loading my loot home. I settled on a black and grey Puma bag and knew I made the right choice when I read the bag's tags.

"Set you're interested in Puma? Nice move. You're obviously smart, confident and know what you want in life. Sure, you work hard, but you're no slave to the rat race. You know the score. You call the shots. You make the most of your Liberos. So buy One — it suits you."

I love brands with a sense of humour.

Imagine my surprise when, a week later, a bigger version of the bag arrived at the Super! headquarters — it was accessories-line launch party of Puma's first store in the coun-try, at Boat Quay's Ngee Ann City.

I key unveiled Puma's Spring/Summer 2007 collection at the party.

More stores are set to open this year in Glen-ette, Vivocity, Bugis and Capitol-on Pa-ra.

Clearly, this romance is just starting. Sweetch-es, Puma.

HEDONI Eyes like

KILL BILL, starring ...

PUMPKIN Rodolfo Mangila

TEN'KAP runner-ners out of superbikers.

DESIGNING CATS Glenda Lentica and Glen Ramona

PUMPKIN Amanda Griffin

WORLD CLASS CAT Maggie Wilson

CATCALL Ayanna Oliva and Eva Quizon

FELINE BEAUTIFUL KITTIES Alain Arcadio and Patty Laurel

GO, KITTY! You can't miss this one in the dark.

PUSSYCAT DOLLS Charmaine Palomo and her Divine Miss Lin

PAWTERS OF THE RACE. In terms of speed, nobody can beat Gaby de la Merced and Tyran Ely.

Super! Selections

CACCIATORE

PIZZA Dog

SWISS Mushroom Melt

BAJA

ALL-DAY Breakfast

SALDERETA

The best haute dogs in the world

Super! tastes the hot dogs of Nicky Jurado, Cassby Lichauco, Anthony Rivera and Marc Licares

By Pam Pastor

NICKY JURADO, CASSBY LICHAU-co, Anthony Rivera and Marc Li-cares have been known to open up everyone dishing sights with Nicky Jo legendary Citing skills and their passion for both the music and the scene.

But they have entered a differ-ent scene—and in the end, hot dogs and not records are spinning.

They opened World Burger Diners Dog at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall. Don't write them off as just another hot dog stand.

Diners Dog offers a wide and solid variety of toppings. From Kilchetta and Four Cheese to Hi-en and Caesar Salad. Super! loved the Texas Grilled Dog and the Swiss Mushroom Melt hot dogs.

They also offer two meals, al-ads, pasta and fries.

HEDONI Fiesta or Brazilian Baba

The Anvaya Cove
Summer Tour Experience

By Troy Bernardo

No one takes hosting visitors more seriously than Anvaya Cove, the private leisure resort developed by Ayala Land Premier. And, the devotion with which they performs this ritual remains unmatched elsewhere. The experience is not only tailor-made for those who appreciate the value of a guided tour; it also caters to those who are used to the irresistible touch of excellent service. The Specialized Summer Tour, which takes effect this month, is a prime example.

A tour with exceptional views. The 45-minute tour of the 220-hectare Anvaya Cove shows visitors the natural beauty of the project, which includes some rarely-seen residents like the panthers.

Performed by guides in khaki/bush duties, who expertly outnav a 100-hectare project into an interesting, compact 45 minutes, the new Jeepney trek treks on the property's history, environmental concerns, as well as future plans. The pleasant drive is done in climate-controlled comfort, with each vehicle having a ready supply of cold beverages. It's a win that appeals to the curious and the discerning, for couples and families on vacation, executives looking to invest, environmentalists on a nature trip—Ayala Land Premier has partnered with the Watchbird Fund for Sanctuary make sure that this is possible.

The leisurely tour begins at the Slow Pavilion, a hilltop platform that places visitors in the middle of what was once a part of the 1000-hectare Hacienda. Here, the guides not only introduce Anvaya's objectives, concepts and unique features, but more importantly, they allow visitors to delve in its awe-inspiring visual feast. With sleeping pockets of the area left untouched, the property is lush with foliage; weak, wilds are built around trees rather than through them, hilltops for lunch, natural, sloping terrain. The panoramic view includes the coastline, the Beach and Nature Club and the Silangan mountain range of Cavinti. Morning a dramatic backdrop to Mt. Makiling, a dormant volcano known for its gold deposits and magnetite, the kind of mineral the sea-cotta is. Pavilions use to trace their routes back to their meeting sites on Anvaya's beaches.

Visitors are then brought to all three of Anvaya's neighborhoods, all of which are named after the area's more unique natural features.

The Wood Peak, which is the third of Anvaya's gated villages, contains the most theme cities. Launched in November 2006, the neighborhood has the most modest lot sizes, from 400 sqm. to 600 sqm., and is located nearest the golf course. It is a 10-minute walk to the main beach.

The Mango Grove, the neighborhood with the highest elevation and the best views, also has the most number of parks. Its main park, which is shaded by up-to-40-half-century old trees, is the favorite stop of children. There, they can climb the biggest bamboo tree, work up a sweat wall climbing, and play 'house by gliding down a zip line.

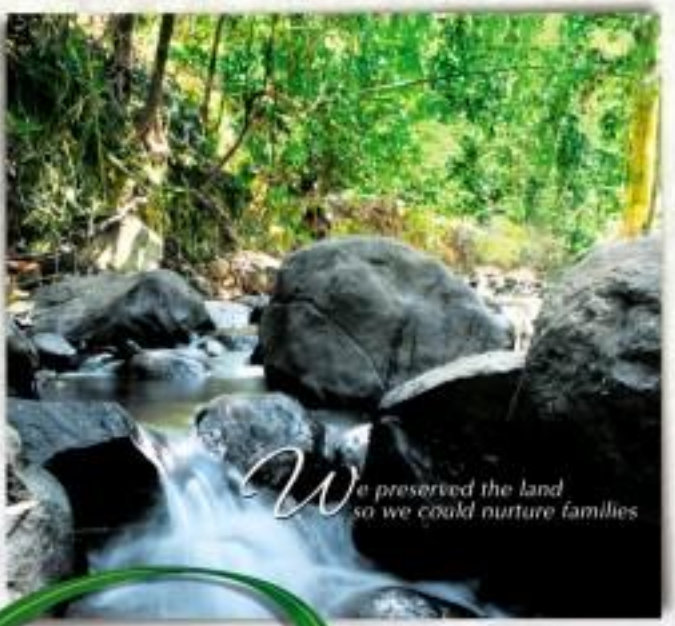
For the summer tour, Anvaya Cove's's mock-up climbing wall for kids. Photo courtesy of Nicky Illuis

The Cliffside, the first residential area launched, is the fourth stop on the tour. The neighborhood, which is nearest the beach, has the biggest lots, ranging from 700 sqm. to 1,200 sqm.. Here, guests are here the abundance of space to unwind in Anvaya's development. All units are high-end/upscale, overnights are reasonable, and residents are allowed to build on only 35% of their lots, ensuring ample margins along their perimeters. The Marketing Pavilion, which stands on Lot 28, follows American style. Asian Tropical aesthetic—a homey, refreshing structure with a minimalist interior. The pavilion also serves as the model for the seventeen show bungalows Seaside Villas near the Beach and Nature Club.

The pavilion is where drinks are served, the informational video is screened, and the sales representatives take over. At this time, guests already have an idea of the Anvaya culture: an all-encompassing concept of family, an unwavering respect for the environment, and a lifestyle that celebrates both. Anvaya, after all, is the Tagalog word for family.

The last stop, the open-air Pandiao Beach Bar and Grille, stands beside the Anvaya Beach and Nature Club and is adjacent to the main beach. Here, guests can spend 80% of their time barefoot, explore the shoreline, and dream of a future in Anvaya. The true office's blue of true life, as promised, and all the wonder but possibilities. And, as you catch a glimpse of a gray mantel Anvaya, which sets into motion the property late-year, warming lovely around the shore, you think the sole warning is easy bargain, and leave Anvaya Cove yearning to come back.

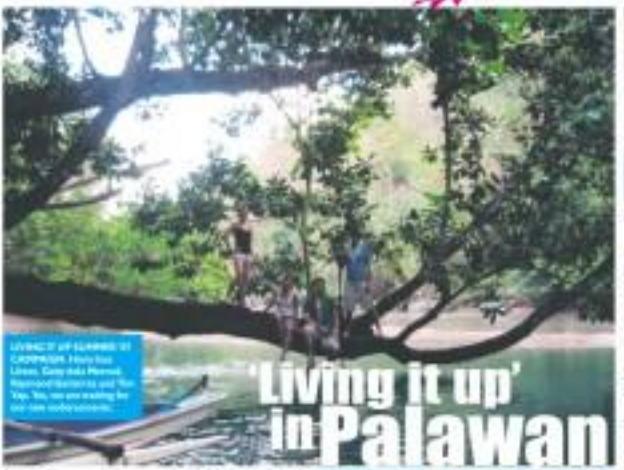
AyalaLandPremier



As a weekday camping or trail-walking, Anvaya Cove's life-lesson programs is filled with opportunities and activities for families to get closer to nature and to each other. Explore the area's trails with specially-trained forest rangers. Feed your hunger for adventure. Try the ziplines and the ropes course at the Nature Camp. Meanwhile, your children can enjoy learning more about nature at the Discovery Classroom or playing in the nature playground and kids obstacle course. You'll find so many reasons to make memories with your family—which is no surprise since Anvaya Cove's lush grounds were specifically designed to make family fun stronger.

ANVAYA COVE

For purchase inquiries or office, lots and club shares, please call (632) 756-7000 • www.anvayacove.com • ask@anvayacove.com



'Living it up' in Palawan

From page D1

whole trip, it was only his first time to touch the sandy shores of Puerto Princesa.

All four of us trekked the long and bumpy road to Sabang, which led us to the Underground River. It was a magical, humbling and eye-opening experience to share such harmonious close-knit stillness of peace to become what they are now. "You realize that you really are just a dot in this vast universe," Bobby, our head writer told us. "Together we up Kawayan, atom the things in our lives," our driver told us.

Puerto Princesa is one model city that the whole Philippines should emulate. They have worked hard to preserve their environment, made sure to throw all their garbage properly and the people are just the nicest. And, QTV's Living It Up crew made sure you get to experience the through the eyes of its host Iwata Pareno Princesa is close to perfect. Your days just don't have a night life. Oh well, you can't have everything.

There, we also saw Hearts Stones among other wonders. Power bar for Living It Up!

Catch it later and every Sunday at QTV at 5.30 p.m.

CHECK, MY CHEST
Paolo Gonzalez at the Crocodile Farm

"LIVING IT UP" SISTERS DANCE SPECIAL. Ramona, Gaby, Kaz and Tim get touch-grooved.

TWO TOP TIM
Tim is no fool of the water

STARSTRUCK
Tim Yap sunbathing in Starfish Island

ONLOOKS with the mangroves...

Sound of summer

THE SOUND OF SUMMER is a raggingly catchy jazz—uplifting, melodic, and with just the right amount of punchy, well-programmed beats. What better way to kick off the sweltering season than with the soulful, sun-dipped tracks of Embarkt, who will be in the country next weekend for the Sunset Party! Bliss.

Along with Superfly's Karl Ty, Gee Dumpit, and Marlon Ordinario, he will commandeer the decks at Cebu's Barrister Area (Cebu Beach Reclamation Project) on April 20 and at the Esplanade Dream by the Sea, SM Central Business Park, Seaside on May 03rd... Peep Cityl on April 21.

There's going to be a mad dash for tickets, now on sale at selected outlets of D Mode and Odyssey. Give Superfly a ring at (0932) 853-0504 or visit superfly.com.ph.

Summer Love

Tonight, for up to six hours of up-rousing fun, NDE spreads summer love in their home, magnetic recording fronts, "For the Love of Music." From 10 p.m. onwards, DJ Mandy Ramos and the NDE house heroes—Anni Sarcia-go, Bonnie Balquinedra, Daniel Jacob, and Darvis, Jun Narval, Alice Teruel, Nedo Medalla, and Nazi Mata... will work up a culinary storm at the Embassy Super Club. Call 892-0609.

More Super! 24/7 events:

April 14, Saturday
Atlanta, Engelbrekt, Perantia, Bernard Rockers, and Dimmsdalk Crown at Zapote Deep Down & Die unlimited: DJs Karl Ty & Mario Garcia at Havana, Santa se Soundspeed DJs at Embassy Corner, Bongo Lounge & Cafe at BPCafe, Guarana at Cafe Havana Greenbelt, Coop Weekend at Bar.

April 15, Sunday
Subways Art Exhibiting Bong Briones, Pete Amador, Pulse Rigging Asia, Black Gary and Jerwind Lingaya at Bong Sal Player, Nuevo Bistro at Cafe Havana Greenbelt, 863 Tambo Bistro Ch at SM Cebu

April 16, Monday
Happy Mondays hosted by Bongo Manansala at Embassy Casino Arena at Cafe Havana Greenbelt. Chemical Underground 4 months

April 17, Tuesday
Rebo Mixx + Playground at Cyberzone, The Bloomfields at Dreamer's, Chillers at Zapote, Corona Royale at Ed Mercel Bistro at Embassy Cuisine, Guarana at Cafe Havana Greenbelt

April 18, Wednesday
Ben Sibal 7, Parantia, Cosmic Love, and Sound at Zapote, Gio Karl Ty & Gee Dumpit at Embassy Cuisine, Lush: Smooth On U at Embassy, Electric Mixxpot at Johns, Party at Embassy Club, Bonnie Pareny at Embassy VIP Room, Bella at Cafe Havana Greenbelt

April 19, Thursday
4th Year Anniversary at Lost, Mingoy Dancehall Collective, Drop, and Boombox Playground at Zapote, Brown Sugga Festival Jamming Groove at SM Cebu 2011 sibling on Cebu, Pinggan Memories at Cafe Havana Greenbelt

April 20, Friday
Chillin' Da Bay, Mixed Party at Dreamer's Bed, 3rd Bed at Asia 8 at an unusually Cuervo Rumbar Send off Party at Embassy Club, Embassy Vera Sound at Encantadia (Electric) Session at Metro Bar, Princess Hangout at Zapote.

For more info, text 24/7 GIGS to 2611 (Globe) and 2451 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up a free copy of 24/7 MAGAZINE. MANAGER at bars and more around the city. Submit your schedules before Monday to events@mag24-7.com, mag24_7@yahoo.com, and Nicole.Nalangan@gmail.com.

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Look who popped by the Super! headquarters! Here at Super! we do not only glorify the now and the next generation. We salute our elders who serve as an icon to us. Kudos to you, Super!

SATURDAY Special

LIFE AFTER SAN MIGUEL

The music goes on for Ryan Cayabyab

By Rina P. Jimlo

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LOVEBUGS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUE

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DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANILAYAN

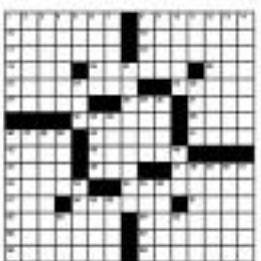
EKID MACHINE — BY ENGOT ASERN

MAGKAIBIGAN — BY JOHNETTE DIZON

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM HILARIDES JR.

SEEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			7	1				
			9		5			
		3				4		
	7			4			5	6
4				6				8
9	1			2			7	
		8				9		
			6		1			
				7	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

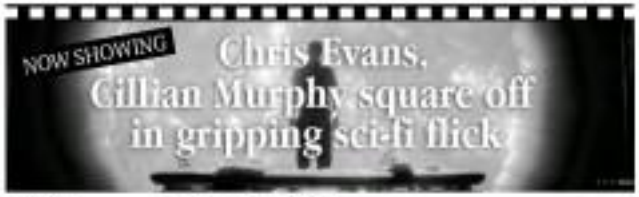
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Type and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	8	6	5	9	7	4	3	2
2	5	9	3	4	1	7	8	6
7	3	4	2	6	8	1	9	5
8	2	7	1	5	4	3	6	9
4	9	3	6	8	2	5	1	7
6	1	5	8	3	9	2	4	7
3	6	2	7	8	5	9	1	4
5	4	1	9	2	3	6	7	8
9	7	8	4	1	6	5	2	3

DIFFICULTY ★★★★



By Rito P. Avila

"Sunshine"

D: Danny Boyle
S: Cillian Murphy, Chris Evans, Michelle Yeoh

TRUST DANNY BOYLE TO COME up with something different in every new movie he makes. From his acclaimed 1996 feature film debut, "Shallow Grave," and the unrestrained "Trainspotting" to 2002's flesh-crawling zombie flick, "28 Days Later," the British director has always managed to turn scare-on storylines into gripping cautionary tales about flawed protagonists who must make difficult matters-of-life-and-death decisions.

In "Sunshine," which takes place in the year 2057, the dying sun—our closest star—poses a grave threat to the existence of mankind. The sun's ability to burn 5,000 billion tons of hydrogen per second—bring warmth and energy to the solar system has considerably weakened. Earth's last hope lies in the success of Icarus II, a spacecraft whose crew of eight has been commissioned to deliver a nuclear device that will reignite the failing star.

After one fatal mistake, however, the spacecraft's mission is thrown into jeopardy! Their only chance of accomplishing their goal—and how last shot at survival—is to use the uncrewed remnants of Icarus I, the failed mission sent by earth seven years earlier, whose empty spacecraft they stumble upon as they drift into space. As the difficulty of their mission slowly dawns on them, they realize that—they're not alone in outer space!

Boyle uses scientific facts to accentuate the gripping science fiction he and writer Alex Garland (*John, nine years ago, set his pages*. he novel, "The Beach," in "galaxy, unchartable, mysterious, and Mardis"). Imagine: One star dies in the sun universe every second, the sun can, scientists estimate, last enough fuel to burn for another five billion years—but, what if they're wrong? What if the sun's existence is taken for granted? right to travel to our planet would take longer—and longer—until it doesn't come at all?

To move his story, Boyle gathers a very attractive international cast with talent to burn: Cillian Murphy (*Breakfast on Pluto*), who eventually squares off with engineer Mace, played by Chris Evans. The cast also includes Japanese superstar Hiroyuki Sanada, who portrays Icarus II's Captain Kaneda; Michelle Yeoh (*Tomorrow Never Dies*), who's in charge of the ship's oxygen garden, and Troy Garity (as communications specialist, Harvey), Jane Fonda's talented son, who wound up

MURPHY AND COLLYWEBER. Play star-crossed lovers in biopic.

to be the ship's resident fool—a character role that's been done to death in countless sci-fi movies.

Boyle's direction is confident and assured, and he's not afraid to take risks with his storytelling. Take the first hour of the film, for example, in which he introduces the characters and their roles in the mission. Instead of doing it in the usual boring manner, he has each character introduce himself in a video log, which is then interrupted by the next character's video log, and so on. It's a clever way to get the exposition out of the way.

Boyle also has a knack for creating memorable images, such as the sight of a human figure floating in space, with the sun's fiery surface as the backdrop. Or the sight of a character's face being reflected in the helmet of another character's spacesuit. Or the sight of a character's face being reflected in the helmet of another character's spacesuit. Or the sight of a character's face being reflected in the helmet of another character's spacesuit

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Spend summer fun at Kalye Juan!

MAKE WITH friends and family the hours spending. Grig as Kalye - perfectly grilled pork, with fresh onions, chicken liver and fresh peppers on a sizzling plate.

Match this with Bangus Kam-Kam, the popular Filipino dish that is a bonafide - the same yummy sauce with bangus belly strips. A must for the health conscious.

For the more adventurous, a must try is the Hito with buco. Deep-fried or grilled then wrapped in aluminum foil in a bed of roasted leaves. Complete this with a pampango dish

Total wellness from Malayan Plaza

THIS SUMMER, MALAYAN PLAZA GOES beyond pampering guests by conducting social health sessions. In partnership with Living Life Well, guests of Malayan Plaza receive a complimentary one hour meridian therapy treatment, a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) treatment that keeps the chi or the body's vital energy flowing.

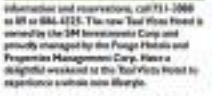
The Meridian Therapy, as for admonished by Living Life Well, will eliminate blockages, energy loss or stagnation. Meridian Therapy is a healing art whereby touch and pressure is applied to the body's meridian lines to release balance between all body organs, emotions and spirit.

The complementary meridian therapy treatment is available for guests who avail of their 4-3-2-1 Summer Countdown Promotion of Malayan Plaza. The Summer Countdown Promotion is available from April 1 to May 31. Guests can book a one bedroom de luxe suite for P6,000 for the first night, P3,000 for the second night, P2,000 for the third night, and P1,000 for the 4-th night. The promo is applicable for a minimum of three nights' reservation stay with the fourth night convertible to a gift certificate which is valid until July 31. Above rates are subject to applicable taxes and service charge. Prior reservations are required subject to space and suite availability. Check in is at 2 p.m. and check out is 12 noon. Guests may opt for a late checkout at 4 p.m. but subject to room availability.

For more inquiries and reservations, contact The Malayan Plaza at telephone numbers 706.6000, Quezon Hotline Hotline at 864-9941 or e-mail Quezon Hotels and Resorts at sales@quezonhotels.com.

ALLURING CULINARY TREATS AT THE TAAL VISTA HOTEL

Spend the weekend in the country's favorite vacation destination, Tagaytay City and check out the delicious culinary treats at the Taal Vista Hotel. Savor the Night Barbecue Buffet On Saturday nights, check out the Hour Down and enjoy the Barbecue Buffet while live band entertainment is showcased starting at 7:30 p.m. Have a taste of a Western-type buffet with a touch of Filipino and Japanese dishes. Hot barbecue courses, oven-roasted baked potatoes and salad together with cookies, sushi and tempura choices and more. The Saturday Barbecue Buffet is priced at P528++ and available for the month of April and May. For more



information and reservations, call 911-5000 to 09 or 684-4125. The new Taal Vista Hotel is owned by the SM Investments Corp and proudly managed by the Forge Hotels and Properties Management Corp. Have a delightful weekend at the Taal Vista Hotel to experience a whole new lifestyle.

THE GREAT MALAYSIAN REVELRY AT THE MANILA PAVILION HOTEL

Relish the refined blend of Malaysian culinary wealth with The Great Malaysian Revelry at the Plaza Garden. Savor the rich exotic flavor of Malaysia in these fiery dishes: Crispy Pork Belly Hainan Sauce; Pork Kuzubo Pa Ka Tim; Lontong Chicken Curry; Nyonya Style; Fried Curry Prawn; Salted Fish Squid with Roast Goose and Steamed Chicken with Sesame Seed and Spicy Sauce. Servings are meant for sharing and they come in small, medium and large sizes. Pesty Garden is open daily. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. while dinner is at 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. You may choose among three private rooms for that particular occasion. Perch - for a group of 10 persons, Lotus - for a group of 12 and Sunflower - for a group of 15 persons. For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1211 extension 2800 and 2881.

Pacquiao-Solis fight at The Bellevue Hotel

GET INTO THE THICK OF THE ACTION AT THE Bellevue Hotel, the newest venue of this youth, premiere House of Gerry Peo Main Bistro Bistro, the much-awaited Pacquiao-Solis match for the title on April 15, Sunday at 8 a.m. the Bellevue Grand Ballroom, for only P800/head inclusive of continental buffet breakfast, mutton round after round of action packed movies from The Bellevue's triple-digit cable channels. The hotel is also happening hotspot south of Metro Manila, the Bellevue Hotel's 2007 Entertainment Plus promises its most lineup for the month of April. Mondays are Victoria Nights for those who love singing. Tuesdays are audience share sessions - now with Alex Bustillo and SPM lovers. Wednesdays are movie and video times until April of '07. Thursdays are lounges and acoustic jams with Romulo. Fridays are dancing and grooving nights with Beyond Rhythm and Saturdays are for ballroom dancing aficionados, hanging out at 20/20 pub serve buffet with food and beverage promos guaranteed to give good times without breaking the budget. For inquiries, call 777-8100.

Kids rule at Astoria Plaza this summer!

THIS SUMMER IS FILLED WITH IMAGINATION and creativity, guaranteed to put a smile on the face of every family members from the moment you check in at Astoria Plaza, with airs no longer stuck playing in the room with their parents, depending on their mom and dad's itineraries from schools to classes and more. This time around, they rule the roost. Upon check-in, the little ones receive an exclusive gift, with their very own memory souvenirs. For only P5,000 net per night for a 1-bedroom suite and P7,000 net per night for a 2-bedroom suite, this summer promo guarantees a memorable, heavenly time together that will surely be cherished by those little ones. Promos are related and children are to high spirits. Available from April 1 - June 30. For information, please call 687-1111. Astoria Plaza is ideally located at #18-21 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. E-mail astoriaplaza@pacific.net.ph. Website www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Quezon Hotels & Resorts Corp.

Tropezz in Makati

BARELY TWO MONTHS OLD, TROPEZZ BAR and Bistro, the new dining-in-a-casual, setting restaurant and bar in Greenbelt 3 in Makati, is already buzzing-in-a-manager with diners near closing week nights.

Tropezz is inspired by the famous seaside town of Saint-Tropez in southern France, located on the French Riviera. It is a favorite vacation spot of international movie stars and chic Europeans who are very visible in the gourmet bars, cocktail lounges and restaurants lining its yacht-filled harbor. "We want to be known as the St. Tropez in Manila and capture the same night life which is mind-blowing, vibrant and very much alive," says Jiji Fernandez, who owns the place along with lawyer Gina Mallonga and Baltazar couple Chat and Jaci Paredes.

Although the place evokes a French feel, Tropezz serves international island cuisine whipped up by its 26-year-old chef de cuisine Boy Sapa. This young culinary artist is a graduate of Le Cordon Culinaire Arts Culinary Studies and also apprenticed with noted chefs Ed Quimson, Nancy Olivas and Jaci Paredes. Despite his age, Sapa has years of culinary experience including stints at Splendido in Tagaytay and Club Med in Palawan. The menu was painstakingly prepared by Sapa and approved by the owners after arduous

rough-food tasting process. "To come up with the menu was a challenge for us," Sapa admits. "We wanted to have a little of everything - Chinese, Thai, Filipino, French, Spanish and American."

At the same time, Tropezz is careful not to displease the eaters already offered by the restaurants in the area. "The menu is a work in progress," explains Jiji Fernandez. "We want the menu to be a no-fuss fine dining experience." Thus far, the dining experience has a wide range of appetizers, main courses and desserts.

"Together with the other owner, Tropezz boasts a mighty line-up of bands which keep the wagas alive for music lovers and for those who wish to unwind after a hard day's work" says 10-man Spa Genting. In its April 20th, Tropezz offers Mondays - Jelly Bands and Ellen - classic folk, pop jazz, alternative two piece band; Tuesdays - Ian Flores with Caroline - acoustic pop five-piece band; Wednesdays - Mysterious variety music six-piece band; Thursdays - Music genre variety music six-piece band; Fridays - Rhythm n B/Club night at band; and Saturdays - Blame with Steven Sugar Ho, the pinoy band, with indie vocalist recently launched by Sublday Records. The new, 22 year-old singing sensation, Sofia, a UST graduate, gave a special performance one Tuesday evening with an exciting repertoire of home-inspired pop

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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SATURDAY Special

Hilary Duff comes of age

DUFF: Her latest album, "Dignity," outlines serious issues.

SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA—THERE ARE SO many who sing and singers who act. But, throughout pop history, few entertainers have successfully balanced those twin careers.

Neither could Hilary Duff—though, not due to lack of effort. While her career as a pop diva skyrocketed—the 5-foot released two platinum albums and a best-selling personal line due to pass three years, the former Disney child star found her acting career stalling.

Difficulty

Despite her considerable star wattage, Hollywood had difficulty seeing Duff

(HILARY, F)

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Avail of at least 3 full workshop sessions for just P3,300. You can also get enrollment discounts of up to P1,500 by presenting your accumulated proofs of Pound Pre-School purchases made from now-say 24 to April 22, 2007.

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Plus, when you enroll your child, you get to attend a seminar by the Philippine Association for the Gifted. Learn how to further nurture your child's talent in this exclusive workshop.

Limited slots available. Register before it's on a first come, first served basis. Be sure to be one of the first to enroll your child at:

- Shoppesville, Cubao on March 31
- The Lanesbrook, Makati on March 31
- Big B Supercenter, Pasig on April 1
- Waltermart, Sta. Rosa, Laguna on April 8
- Robinsons Supermarket, Ermita on April 14
- SM Supermarket, San Lazaro Fernandez on April 15
- SSSA Shangri-la Mall Atrium on April 15

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For kids 3 years onwards

INTERESTED? Contact Me to learn more about Power Pre-School Intensive Camp, Summer Workshops. Please contact me through

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Hilary Duff comes of age

DUFF: Takes on a challenging role in John Cusack's "War, Inc."

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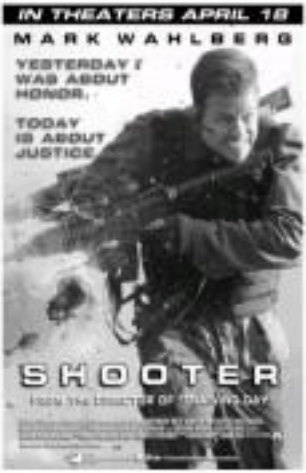

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Beyond her post-angsty sweet robot and good girl persona (no rehab or paid-love portrayal involved).

"The lack of courteous stress shocks me," Duff, 20, says in her girlish voice, sitting in a back corner of one of her favorite restaurants, brunette hair peeking out of a black newsboy cap.

"I would read a script and focus in how male its story. Then, someone would say, 'Hilary Duff? Oh no, we don't want her for that role!'"

As bad scripts and rejections kept coming, Duff decided to step the balancing act and put 100 percent into her music career.

Pulsating grooves

Starting again with songwriter Kara DioGuardi, she plunged into recording "Dignity." It's a club-oriented record filled with pulsating grooves, but it also tackles some of the more serious issues she's faced since her last record—including a breaking with fiancé Chris Lane's dad Harrison and her parents' split.

"Every experience I have had for the last two years, I wanted to write about," says Duff, who reserves all her one-song on the disc—the first indie she has written exclusively for a CD.

"It's a new side of me. The songs are still on pleasure, letting them was very therapeutic—Cosmic Therapy!"

"She was honest about where she was in her life, and very open," recalls DioGuardi. "She has become an adult on this record, as she sees she feels and acts, and in the way she talks/presents what she's singing about."

Transition

While recording "Dignity," Duff was in transition—in both her personal and professional life.

One of the biggest jolts was the end of her romance with Aaron Carter. Though the pair first raised eyebrows because of their seven-year age difference—he was in his 20s, and she was only 16 when they started dating—they seemed like a solid couple, and he even worked on her greatest hits disc, providing an edgier duet to their bouncy pop that had become her signature.

But, Duff says she broke it off last year when she had a feeling he "it wasn't right anymore." She still speaks warmly of Aaron ("I still always love him, he was a wonderful person"), though admits it was hard to see him move on so quickly to his current fiancée, tabloid magnet Nicole Richie.

Breakup

She went through another tough breakup, though not his own: The dissolution of her parents' marriage. Though Duff doesn't go into details, she admits the song, "Gypsy Woman," was in part inspired by the family division.

Duff decided to channel her feelings on "Dignity." "When my I feeling hurt," she adds, "It's easier to open up through my music."

While Duff was able to express different emotions on record, she found it difficult in her personal life to connect, mainly because most of the offbeat roles kept her in "Little Miss Safe" mode.

"I didn't want to do that," explains Duff, still frustrated at the thought. "I wanted to challenge myself and do something more, period. I wanted to be considered it."

It wasn't until she was a month deep into recording "Dignity" and readily focused on her recording career that Duff got the big break she craved: her interest "War, Inc.," written by John Cusack, who also stars in it. It was Cusack who sought Duff out, not the other way around, after he was impressed—because he wanted her to play a pop singer!

Script

"Hey, once he talked to me on the phone and after I read the script, I knew I had to do it!," she says of the part, an unnamed, sexed-up European rockstar.

She took a break from recording to shoot the movie in Bulgaria. Now, she describes the shoot as a "life-changing experience."

Duff brought back that passion when she went back to work on "Dignity." ■

Gothic thriller...

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Plot

Though rich in Southern gothic atmosphere, the eerie tribal chimes are a utter bore (underscore intended), the film is to-tchoooo. It fails to immerse you in its world. Your brain doesn't stop working because you don't feel scared, and you have time to notice the annoying little holes in the plot.

Sneak: soldiers bravely run, but even she and the shoot but effectively. Amos Sophia Takal (who plays the little girl) can't keep the derivative movie from sinking.

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ACC	THE REAPING	AMO CUTE NG INA MO	SUNSHINE	NORBIT
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C1 SUNSHINE
C2 THE REAPING
C3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
C4 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE

Gothic thriller is incoherent and derivative

By Noelani Torre

YOU HAVE TO GIVE "The Reaping" credit

HANNA, Bynes performance.

for trying to be original. It's different from other horror movies of its ilk in at least one respect—it doesn't get its Biblical inspiration from the Book of Revelations. With its modern-day rehash of the 10 plagues of Egypt, the film's answer to the sin-riden wicked finishes.

Starring two-time Academy Award-winner Hilary Swank, the movie tells the story of a small Louisiana town suddenly beset by Old Testament plagues.

Miracles

It also follows the story of an untainted, pregnant servant girl—Swank whose job is to debunk miracles by finding scientific explanations for them.

Swank is Father Costa Wiener, an ex-minister who had lost faith after her husband and daughter were killed in the flood. Now, she goes around proving that miracles have logical explanations behind

SATURDAY Special

'Welcome to the universe of SANJAYA'

SANJAYA. Mashable ka "mad" hairstyles.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE YEARS EDITION OF "American Idol" could turn out to be the most significant in the popular talent reality show's history—and the unexpected key factor is a gangly Indian-American youth named Sanjaya Malakar.

Sanjaya sang well enough to get into the Top 24, but it quickly became clear that, in terms of vocal prowess and experience, he was outclassed by the other finalists. So, from week to week, he was in dire danger of being voted out.

Limitations

After a few weeks, however, the situation began to change. Sanjaya's limitations made him look vulnerable, as more viewers started "defending" or "protecting" him, with their votes. In fact, there's a group of people who even for him because he's also underdog.

On his own, Sanjaya upped the ante(ha) factor by appearing each week with a new "look," focused mainly on his hairstyle—one week coached, "pony comeback" the next, slicked down—etc.

There must be method in the mad hairstyles because, what do you know?, Sanjaya is no longer in the idol's Bottom Three. Even the show's resident judges have stopped cutting him down and are now deliberately complimenting him for his "charm," "in being a "natural entertainer," etc.

Even here, however, it's been just a matter of time, because the show's fans, particularly the adolescents and teens, fell in love with Sanjaya towards ego.

If you can't beat them, join them? Yes, but the fans have gone even further, so the judges have to eat humble pie and really hustle if they don't want to end up as mere voters.

Vagaries of voting

Of course, Sanjaya could be voted out anytime—such are the vagaries of voting. "American Idol" style. But, if he continues to survive into the fifth Final Five or so, his very endurance could provide a major outcry and controversy, especially if some fan contenders fall by the wayside to accommodate his fan-instigated survival.

And, if he survives up to the Top Three, the controversy could escalate into a "riot" that could threaten the survival of "American Idol" itself in its present form!

But it, some of the show's viewers voted decisively here, here, here and there through the years, but Sanjaya's continued survival could cast the most serious doubts on the audience's ability to discover and support authentic and deserving singing stars. Whether that is fact will pan out, we'll just have to wait to find out.

Process

Interestingly, another popular singing idol abroad has just altered its own decision process, with viewers no longer allowed to vote, and the winner now being chosen exclusively by that US's resident judges.

Will "American Idol" also be forced by its ongoing controversy to eventually make a similarly drastic change?

That's still a distant possibility, but what's already in effect is the new online configuration on "American Idol," thanks or no thanks to Sanjaya Mr. Malakar.

Well, as he himself has earlier smugly said (or just Simon Cowell in his place), "Welcome to the universe of Sanjaya!"

THE SAVIOR? Indian-American youth's continuing survival could eventually provoke a major outcry and controversy.

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SONY Summer pleasures '07 HD

Explosive dance sequences buoy up teen drama

SHORT AND GOOD: Talented actors add oomph to predictable film.

By Nestori Torre

THERE'S A MIDDLE lot of stomping going on in the movie, "Stomp the Yard." There's also a good deal of clapping, jumping, leaping, shouting, and sweaty guys with their shirts off.

No, it's not about the Pilipino people. The film is just a PG-13 dance movie, so don't let your imagination run too much flights in any case, as you will soon see, the makers of this movie clearly didn't see enough of them, anyway.

Archetypal

Its story revolves around DJ (Columbus Short), a teenager well on his way to becoming your archetypal cool, smiley, very cute-if-creepy, young black man. DJ is a talented streetdancer from LA whose brother gets murdered after winning a dance showdown against a group with more gang ties than dancer bravado.

Scholarship

Convicted of assault, he's given a chance to start over again when his mother sends him to his uncle in Georgia—who, in turn, bought a scholarship for him to Truth University, a full-scale school based on real life pedigreed African American educational institutions.

There, he falls for the formal Ful April (Meagan Good) who is the girlfriend of the big man on campus who just happens to be a member of a fraternity that has won the National Stepping Competition seven years in a row. That he will then join a rival stepping fraternity is more or less predictable.

Stepping is a kind of dance heavy on rhythm and synchronicity, and reminiscent of tribal war dances. It has long been a tradition with African American and Greek fraternities and sororities who view it as a kind of weapon.

Instead of including it in credits, they stage dance-offs. It's quite an interesting performance genre which, more importantly, hasn't yet been consumed by Hollywood.

Rhythm

The dance numbers are all that you'd expect them to be—explosive, exciting, and synchronized. The rhythm observers will have you watching in your seat, and the cast—particularly Short—are all gifted dancers.

Choreographer

Short is also a professional choreographer in real life, and he gives a charismatic performance both as a dancer and actor. You will be riveted by the things that he can make his body do... and he does them all with strength, grace and infectious rhythm.

Co-star Good hardly does any dancing, though, since it's the boys who are the stars of this particular drama.

Aside from the sizzling hot dance sequences and the film's talented cast, however, the movie doesn't have much going for it. Whenever the dancing stops, so does the movie, and you can only have so much dancing in a film that doesn't have much to tell.

Evolution of Lenten classics remembered

By Boots Cervantes

BEFORE HOLLYWOOD changed the dreary look and flavor of Lenten films with the notable likes of "Quo Vadis" and "The Robe," the movies shown during the Holy Week used to be more bland and rather "hellbender" in tone.

In those days, if you wanted to escape the excruciating boredom of the cinemas, you ran to the air-conditioned cinemas of Escolta or Ever Gil.

To our disappointment, however, most of these cinemas like Avenue, Lyric, Rizal, Ideal and Universal would only re-show the black and white version of "King of Kings," so we had to "accept" those smudgy monotone pictures as part of our Lenten sacrifice.

Portrayal

We were very pleased when Dina Bonnevie and the other "bathtub" director were finally joined by movies like "Quo Vadis," starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov, whose portrayal of an insane Roman emperor was so bizarre that he was almost lovable. The movie was a big hit because it fused pieces with the elements of romance, spectacle, pomp and religion.

However, the real cinematic breakthrough was "The Robe," based on a best-selling novel. The film starred Richard Burton, a British actor who had made quite an impact when he was first introduced in "My Cousin Rachel" opposite Olivia de Havilland. Thereafter, Burton starred in the epic, "Alexander the Great."

Despite the religious message of "The Robe," there was talk later that Jean Simmons' husband, Stewart Granger, became jealous of the obvious flirtation between Burton and his wife.

Years later, we found out that Burton was indeed a ladies' man—especially when talk about the Elizabeth Taylor-Richard Burton romances erupted on the set of "Cleopatra." The rest, as they say, is history.

Poem

When "The Robe" was shown, it was standing room. It was also in 3-D, so we were more than thrilled to follow the shot of the arrow from bow to victim, since it reminded us of Leonardo's hero in the poem, "I Shot an Arrow to the Air." In our eyes, it was magical!

On the heels of "The Robe's" success, Hollywood became more dashing with the Biblical films it produced. The industry realized that movies like it could also be profitable—and they were involved.

Manila's conservative cinemagoers then opened to movies like "Ben Hur" and "The Robe's" sequel, "Demetrius and the Gladiators"—and Lenten moviegoing has never been the same since!

"THE ROBE." Changed the face of religious cinema.

Bindi Irwin's nature series debuts on Discovery Channel

NEW YORK—BORN TO eco-vet Steve Irwin, daughter of the late "Crocodile Hunter," Steve Irwin, will make her debut on US television in June in a nature-loving TV host.

Titled "Bindi Jungle Girl," designed to help get more children interested in wildlife conservation, premieres on June 9 on the Discovery Kids Channel.

Bindi will interact with a variety of animals, from koalas to elephants and snakes, while explaining how all animals—both rare and not-so-rare—need to be given respect and protection, the network announced recently. She began filming with her father in early 2006.

Poisonous barb

Steve Irwin died last September after a stingray's poisonous barb pierced his chest while he was filming in the Great Barrier Reef. His wife, Terri, and Bindi decided to finish filming the worldly series, the network added.

Steve Irwin will appear in archive shot before his death and in other archival footage, Discovery publicist David Schaefer shared.

BRAVE. Carnivore lover's legacy.

Bindi will also host "My Daddy the Crocodile Hunter," a one-hour special that will air on June 9 on national Pinoy. The special includes clips from Bindi's early childhood.

Earth Day at the CCP

From page C4

Kids' Choice Awards give young stars the power to choose! Nickstars in the Philippines will vote "for The Pinoy Wannabe 2007."

How? From April 15 to May 13, simply get voting forms from Toy Kingdom stores, and choose from the star's nominees—Chi Irene Jimenez, John Lloyd Cruz, Angel Locsin, Making Mendoza and Lea Salonga.

And you could get a chance to be part of the awards! Toy Kingdom also has "Nickstars Search: PI 20,000!" Five stars also log on to www.nickspot.com/nickstarsearch.

Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards is the only tv show where kids a chance to vote for their favorite stars in movies, television, music, books, sports and video games!

Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 3:45 p.m., "Monster-in-Law." Tomorrow at 2:45 p.m., "The Legend of Bagger Vance." April 16-19 11:30 p.m., "Pride and Prejudice." April 17 at 11 p.m., "What Lies Bugs." April 18 at 5:15 p.m., "Stand and Deliver." April 19 at 9 p.m., "Finding Nemo." April 20 at 10:15 a.m., "Simon Birch."

On Cinemax, today at 11 p.m., "Casino." Tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., "Primeval." April 16 at 9 p.m., "To Be the Best." April 17 at 8 a.m., "Finding Lili." April 18 at 11 p.m., "When Strangers Appear." April 19 at 12:30 p.m., "The Right Stuff." April 20 at 7 p.m., "Straits a Little Grease 2."

Pacquiao-Solis match

Watch the boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Angel Jorge Solis live from the Mandalay Bay, San Antonio, Texas at the newly opened ballroom of it-year hotel and Casino Manila at 6 p.m. tomorrow. Call 165-1234 for TMDS.

Mr & Ms. celebrates 31st anniversary

Mr & Ms., "the super assembly of the body, mind and spirit," explores on its 31st year this month with a special issue celebrating life. On the cover are "Spiderman 3" stars, Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst.

Other features are on runner survivors, how to simplify everyday living, feng shui, nourishing the spirit, children with multiple disabilities, the unwanted pulp, and stars like Vilma Santos and Judgky on their own lives. The magazine is also available at www.mrandmsmagazine.com.

Film workshops

The Marilou Diaz Film Institute and Arts Center is holding a Film Among 1 Summer Workshop from April 17 to May 12. The unique workshop, to be conducted by the award-winning Sooong Documentary, seeks to enable the filmmaking student, as well as the film composer, to come up with effective and creative concepts for full-length features film scripts.

Another workshop, the Junior Summer Video Program, will be conducted from April 17 to May 11, for students 13 to 17 years old. And a Children's Summer Art Program (music and movement classes) will also be held. Call 724-1078, 722-0485, or email mdafilm@gmail.com.

Provocative movies on Hallmark Channel

April 30 at 10 p.m., "Mobbed: Anyone Ever Murder Marky?" April 17 at 10 p.m., "The King and Queen of Moonlight Bay" about a teenage girl's quest for the father who abandoned her. April 18 at 10 p.m., "Count to Come" sees an embattled couple trying to rediscover what it means to love again. April 19 at 10 p.m., "Sleep Illusion: Beware of Flight 175" is about a single-engine aircraft pilot lost over mid-air—and the amateur author who guides him to safety.

The following week's cast sees on stories that demonstrate the tenacity of the human spirit: April 22 at 10 p.m., "Ambulance Girl" (see stars Kathy Bates' exemplary performance as a woman who turns a real-life crisis into a life-altering adventure). April 29 at 10 p.m., "Mars That Blows the Eye" is about a documentary for blind children who also loses her eyesight.

April 30 at 10 p.m., "Tales An girl" is about a teen that was killed in a car. April 26 at 10 p.m., "Out of the Ashes" centers in on the brutal medical "experiments" at Auschwitz. April 30 at 10 p.m., "Falling in Love with the Girl Next Door" is about childhood friends who meet again after years of separation—and decide to marry.

ACCLAIMED monthly magazine marks milestone.

TEDALE. New girl on the pop block.

Ashley Tisdale

New girl on the pop block, dub by Tisdale, has just released her debut album, "Headstrong," which features a remixed version of the songs of Ashley Simpson, Britney Spears and Allison Phillips. Notable cuts include the chart-topping "He Much Is You," "Is the Good or Me," "Pretenty" and "Suddenly."

Aliwan Fiesta'

For the past five years, the Manila Broadcasting Co., the CCP and the cities of Manila and Pasay have organized "Aliwan Fiesta," a grand parade celebration showcasing the different cultural festivals of the Philippines. It features the best indigenous dances, the colorful floats, and the regions' homegrown beauties dancing along Roxas Blvd., culminating at the CCP Complex. This year, "Aliwan Fiesta" will be held at 5 p.m. on April 29.

Stonerfree's 'DeLorean'

Grab a copy of Stonerfree's latest album, "DeLorean," the project Pinoy band's fulltime stay in the short-opening "Oblivion." The musically adventurous pop-rock quartet is composed of vocalist Rhic Mitra, guitarist Jeriaco Tanyan, drummer Bolly Mangubat and bassist Regie Mangubat.

Alexa Concepcion, ramp model

Beauty queen-model-movie actress Alexa Concepcion will walk the runway again on April 18 at the CCP to display the matching new line and collection of Rhea de Guzman, the Bangsar avenue who has received international metals with her handwoven fabrics of eco-fibers. With designs by Shelley Alejandrino, "Fibers of Life by Rovic" is directed by Shiori Ishikawa.

"SING AND QUEEN OF MOONLIGHT BAY." Teenage girl's quest for the father who abandoned her.

CONCEPCION. Graces the runway again.

Steven Fernandez

The "Shot and Safaris" show is presented by the Pilipo Industry Development Authority and supported by Dinilenta Limitado, Philippine Retirement Authority, Subic City, Crystal Cove Resort and Leisuremark Subic. Call 896-6945.

DIAZ-ABAYA. Her new line saluted in offering dress summer workshops.

Michel Legrand rekindles passion for jazz

NEW YORK—AT A recent club performance, Michel Legrand decided to leave a little fun by "destroying" his familiar tune, "I Will Wait for You," the theme from Jacques Demy's film which earned Catherine Deneuve into a star and earned the French pianist-composer his first Oscar nomination.

So, Legrand turned the melancholy romantic ballad from the 1964 film, "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," into an adventurous romp, playing the melody in a potpourri of styles, including tango, waltz, tango and rock: a boomerang Rumbalambaya.

Birthday

"At 75, nothing is serious, so I can't stand serious people," continued Legrand, interviewed between sets during a six-night run at Birdland jazz club to celebrate his 75th birthday.

"The privilege of improvisation is to take anything and on top to do something with it—anything that comes up in mind," explained Legrand, speaking in French-accented English.

Legrand's playful deconstruction of the Cherbourg theme was among the highlights of an evening that saw him performing selections from his more than 200 film and television scores.

Repertoire

The repertoire ranged from the familiar, such as "The Windmills of Your Mind," "The Summer Knows," "When Are You Going the Best of Your Life?," and "Brian's Song," to the more obscure—two names he wrote for the 1990 film, writer, film, "Singin'," starring trumpeter Billie Davis in his only acting role.

Legrand, who turned 75 last Feb. 24, says he does not believe in celebrations, but he could not resist the invitation to mark the occasion by leading a jazz trio featuring the stellar tandem of bassist Ron Carter, a member of Davis' famed 1960s quintet, and drummer Lewis Nash, who spent a decade with pianist Tommy Flanagan.

"To play with such an extraordinary rhythm section, I would play every night, seriously," said Legrand. "Mind it's good for me, because I spend most of my time composing, writing and creating. When I physically play piano with three cats, it's pure heaven!"

The gig was also a chance to rekindle the flames of his first passion—jazz. Legrand was a teenage prodigy studying classical piano and composition at the Paris Conservatory when he attended Lionel Hampton, Stan Getz and Quincy Jones' concert.

Revolution

"Before—I didn't know what Quincy was then. It was a jazz style that I had never heard. It was a revolution to me because during the war, during the German occupation, just jazz forbidden, so we didn't hear anything.

"I listened to Stan very carefully. The next day, I bought all the 78 records that I could find, and that changed my life! Jazz is one of the most important disciplines in music in the 20th century," he added.

Legrand, who has won three Oscars and five Emmys, is also looking to find success in the one area which has eluded him—a Broadway musical. He received a Tony nomination for his score for the 2003 musical, "Amour," but it only ran for several months.

Collaboration

Legrand has been working on the score for a new musical, "Marguerite," which he is doing in collaboration with "Les Mis" and "Miss Saigon" creators Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg and British director Jonathan Kent.

Legrand's willingness to take on a multitude of projects at this late stage of his life is reflected in his answer to the inevitable question: "What are you doing the rest of your life?"

"There are so many things that I haven't done yet that I want to do before I die, so I will be extremely busy until my last moment," Legrand shared. "I want to know more about myself. I want to explore what else is possible for me to compose. I want to be better tomorrow than I was yesterday!" AP

LEGRAND: More musically adventurous at age 75.

Films are still best seen on the big screen

By Rica Arevalo

THE SCIENCE OF FILM DISTRIBUTION is hard to master. Traditionally, after a film is released in theaters, its next life is on video (VCD, DVD) or on cable before it's shown on TV for free.

But, with the advent of the Internet, mobile phones and the I-pod, watching a film becomes an even more intimate experience. Film distributors has gone a long way, indeed.

In Germany and the United Kingdom, movie chains came up with an innovative drive to discourage the early release of blockbuster films on DVD after their commercial run. Because the income of distributors who announce their early release on DVD

"NIGHT at the Museum" was released on DVD only a few months after it played in cinemas.

first day of showing (Wednesday) is critical. If it doesn't earn enough on its first day, distributors might pull it out of their theater circuits before the weekend—the economic reasons, of course.

If your film bombs at the box office, however, your rewards are huge: less in comparison like Videoflick Piedad-Luna, Rivera Entertainment, Vivo, Regal and Star Cinema, which can distribute your movie on video.

Videoflick caters to low-budget indies like "Mga Pusang Gala," "Big Time," "Boom Boy," "Dancing Bangga" and "Da Ballon ng Kapon." Rivera has "Big Bagsakan ni Matinee Girlettes," "Pinoy Blondie," "Umeiba," "Crying Ladies" and "La Tina Loca." Vivo is distributing the horror flick, "Segunda."

Regal, ERB and Star Cinema have "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," "Shake, Rattle & Roll 8," "Zsa Zsa Zaturnah Ze Movie," "Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Ni" and "The Window," but there's a market for these videos—fulfillingly.

But, there's a growing trend for personal entertainment. You can now download your favorite movies, animations and music videos.

Mike Sandejas' "Wind ng Sara" will be shown at 6M cinemas on April 25. Be try to catch it on the big screen. Here's wish for its DVD release.

Let's help the Cinemalaya best picture winner succeed the traditional way!

A wealthy household

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW DO YOU DEFINE A "LOW class" home? Some people look at a house's facade, its exterior decoration or furnishings. The illiterate Bhagwanism has a better, deeper definition. "Houses, from which guests go away without having been received, even with an offering of water are like holes in the field where jackals reside." He one wants to enter the home of a jackal; no one wants to visit the home of a rich man.

The Vedas teaches proper etiquette in receiving guests. Depending on one's capacity and position, a host must make their guests feel comfortable and at ease. If the host is rich, he can offer food and drinks.

But, despite poverty, a man can at least provide a seat for his guest and a glass of water to quench his visitor's thirst. At times, even when the guest is somebody we enemy, he still has to be properly received.

Natural reaction

He have visited the homes of different types of people. We know what it feels like to be unwelcome. In such cases, the natural reaction, of course, is to leave and never go back. When we enter the homes of affluent people, certain obstacles have to be overcome: A big gate, fearsome dog, security guards, and padlocked doors.

As timers, you wait by the gate for a long time under the scorching heat of the sun while the owner's approval of your entry is sought. When you finally get to, you have to wait again for the owner—and then, when you finally meet him, you're not given enough time to explain what you need, because he will list so many things to do.

Simplicity

He have likewise seen the beauty and simplicity of a farmer's hut. There is no gate or paid guard to worry about. And the farmer is in no rush to deal with you. He offers you all the food that he has. His host may be small, but it look like home because the host has made you feel warm and welcome.

Good farmers is awarded to kind homeowners. Wealth isn't always measured in terms of money. Contentment and peace are available elsewhere.

Distinguished alumnus

DR. RAMON ROCHON A. Singzon, deputy secretary general of the House of Representatives, is the new chairman of the Board of Trustees of San Beda College.

Solid record

Singzon's commanding performance as a professional and his solid record of selfless service to the Bedan community have earned for him the honor of handling the policy-making body of the institution.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

He is expected to play a significant role in sustaining the growth of SBC, and in strengthening its position as one of the top educational institutions in the country.

He completed his doctoral studies at the University of Santo Tomas and graduated summa cum laude in Bedan Resource Management. Recently, he wrote a book, "Human Resource Management in the Philippines," which is used as a textbook in college and graduate schools.

...

Join the Mandy Navasero Business Photo Submission Mayhi to El. mandy.navasero@inquirer.com.ph, or call 896-1797.

'3rd Rock's' teen star wins praise as adult actor

LOS ANGELES—MANY YOUNG MEN COME TO HOLLYwood to act, but former child star Joseph Gordon-Levitt had to leave to learn what it really means to be an actor.

In the late 1990s, Gordon-Levitt played a wise-cracking teen alien on the television comedy "3rd Rock from the Sun." The 23-year-old actor's new film, "The Lookout," opened in North American theaters recently.

Reviews

Good early reviews for the crime thriller and for two of Gordon-Levitt's recent movies—he was lauded for the low-budget festival films "Mysterious Skin" and "Brick"—have critics and filmmakers granting him one of the best actors of his generation.

But, plaudits like those might not have come had he not left Thunderbolt, Ariz., a blue spot of the Big Apple, and attended Columbia University he a while, Gordon-Levitt told Reuters.

He also credited his parents, whom he described as "hippies in the '60s," with keeping his head off Hollywood fame and pressure and allowing him to grow in to his own.

"About the time I went back to acting, it wasn't just for the anymore—I had found that I cared about the rest of the world, not just myself. I wanted to find a way to connect to the rest of the world," he explained.

Recognition

"When I was a kid, I used to hate any type of recognition. It made me nervous," he added. "But now, when people see that new 'Mysterious Skin,' 'Brick,' and even '3rd Rock,' it means a lot to me."

Gordon-Levitt, who has been acting since age six, said he now judges roles based on whether he enjoys the script, finds the characters intriguing, as well he working with people who are passionate about a project.

The young actor said he found all three in the role of bear-damaged Chris Pratt, who is lured into a bank robbery by former drummer Gary Franks's "The Lookout." The movie has earned a 90 percent positive rating from film website movies.com.

Film critic

Richard Roeper, film critic for the TV show, "Ebert & Roeper," has said Gordon-Levitt "joins the ranks of our best young actors," on the rise.

"In many scripts, characters are always one-dimensional. If the protagonist is a hero, he's all good," Gordon-Levitt explained. "But, all the roles in 'The Lookout' are complicated. I play the hero, but there's a lot you can blame him for." For character, Pratt, was a star high school hockey player who severely injures himself and his friends in a car wreck.

Years later, Pratt works as a bank janitor who has problems with his short-term memory, and prep for On life he since stopped. This allows him to be lured into helping rob the bank.

Flaws

Despite his flaws, the to deserve wants the Pratt he rouse. Gordon-Levitt portrays him as an everyday guy who has lost his way in life.

"Besides the injury, there's also his shame, guilt, regret, and his inability to live in the present as he wallows in the past," shares Gordon-Levitt. "That is something all of us can identify with."

Reuters

GORDON-LEVITT. Now regarded as one of the best young thespians in US films.

VITO Sotto's extended family fully supports his candidacy for the senate.

RONIO Pimentel, shown here with his wife, Jinerk, grew up with meals being performed all around him.

'Senatoriables' for the arts

By Nestor U. Torre

AS THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN gathers steam, artists are meeting to determine which senatorial candidates they should support, so that the arts are properly boosted, represented and supported by legislators in the next Congress.

For their part, like-minded candidates are reaching out to artists and artists' groups to convince them that they and be relied upon to uphold the arts throughout the land.

Key consideration

This might appear to be a fringe or niche issue to more traditional political pundits, but it is in fact a key consideration, because most executive actors in the art still feel it's being one the best in the Filipinos, and help enlighten him about how to use above his limitations and realize his potential as individual and citizen.

On the movie front, Tito Sotto's senatorial bid is receiving solid support from film artists. They point to his record as key supporter of the successful bid to pass the law creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines. He were present in the Senate when Sotto energetically and succinctly argued the case for the bill's passage.

He were impressed because quite a number of film industry leaders, after they assume political office, stop helping solve the industry's many problems and focus on "larger" issues, instead.

Gratitude

Recently, Sotto's candidacy was bolstered by Angel Filer's Mother Lily, and the pivot confidence she learned was granted by many stars, who expressed their gratitude for Sotto's steadfast espousal of the cinematic arts.

It was also heartening to see Sotto being strongly supported by his wife, Helen Gamboa, their children, and other members of their extended family.

For her part, Loren Legarda has shown in the past that she values the role that education and the arts can play in "redeeming" the Filipino.

Perhaps even more instructive, she enjoys the performing and visual arts—a big improvement over some other politicians whose disdain for the arts and ignorance about their power to enhance and enlighten help account for many of the country's social problems.

Personal appreciation

Koko Pimentel is similarly a supporter of the arts due to a personal appreciation ingrained since his childhood, because his mother Jing his loves a composer for many years.

As literally grew up with music being ingrained around him—as evidenced by his brother Rat many other accomplishments aren't his claim to.

In addition, his father Nene a himself

LEGARDA. Enjoys the visual and performing arts.

RIDCO. Fully cognizant of the role the arts can play in cognitive education.

an educator, writer and supporter of the arts, and Koko's wife Jewel has hosted an educational TV show for children.

Underutilized resource

Nene Pons to herself an artist, but long acted to and directed to plays for decades. In addition, she and her late husband Raul supported Lino Brocka's early art films. Nene is also an educator who is fully cognizant of the role the arts can play to promote education, and Imman hour to how human this largely underutilized resource.

Ed Aragon's wife, Sally, has been an arts leader for years, so he can be expected to be a positive influence in the use of the arts to enhance education and the inculcation of values in the students.

Also appreciative of the arts is Kiko Pangilinan, whose wife Sharon Cuneta is known for her espousal of arts and culture, especially music and film.

Therefore, these "senatoriables" can be depended on to help make the arts a more vibrant part of our nation's life.

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THE READING

Earth Day at CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE Philippines marks Earth Day with a celebration titled "Sibol 2007: Culture for Life" on April 22 at the CCP Complex. The theme, "Culture for Life," emphasizes the role of artists in promoting Go-environment.

Sibol 2007

MONTAGE begins at 7 a.m. with clean up operations by CCP employees. It focuses on the theme to dawn at 10:14 a.m. There will also be a painting jab, a screening of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," a light and sound spectacle, etc. Call 832-1125 loc. 1125, or visit www.culturecenter.gov.ph.

April's Full' as Nickelodeon

The hottest shows this summer are on Nickelodeon. The Tv are going to bring in new episodes and make your "Brainy Smurfdays" month-long viewing fest to keep their identities secret as they

MORE singing and dancing for the "Backyardigans."

CONCEPCION. 2004 Pinoy Wheelchair Marathon.

save the world. So, mark your summer calendars with a big "X" and join in their adventures at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Weekdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., the musical gang of fun returns with more singing and dancing to awaken your imagination. So, learn with new episodes of "Backyardigans"! For more exciting highlights, log on to www.nickjr.com.

'Wonder'

On ABS- Signature, "Wonder" premiers at 10 p.m. on April 16. The new show is a smart, edgy and darkly comic take on life for a widow trying to make ends meet while she raises her two teenage children. Mary-Louise Parker stars, and Brian Gnoffy directs.

At Starmall Edsa-Shaw

MYMP visits tomorrow, while Sheree and Jennifer Lee were fans on April 22, and the 6ixth Kick performs on April 29.

'Picasso 4D' at Enchanted Kingdom

This summer, Enchanted Kingdom and GlobalSurplus Entertainment present "Picasso 4D," a 4D film that uses advanced digital sound, picture and special effects to create a multisensory experience. For 15 fun-packed minutes, viewers join the misadventures of Captain Lasley (Leslie Nielsen) and his zany crew while on a quest for hidden treasures.

Kids' Choice Awards

It's Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards' 20th anniversary! To celebrate, everything outrageous and gooey, a premiere party will be held on May 26 at the Ahn Theater. Let the countdown begin!

During the fun party, kids will be treated to snippets of the climactic, loudest bash in Los Angeles, USA. The

IN THIS ISSUE
Real newsmakers in the biz /H4

SATURDAY Special

PADILLA. Ernst [illegible] music hits.

Sharon, Regine behind Dennis and Gino's recording bids

By Nic-P. Aulia

IN THE 1970S, THE THEN RECORDING MOVIE queens' designated rumserts... Vilma Cruz (G, Edgar Mortiz, said even Christopher de Leon... proved that they were no obstacles in the singing department.

The multi-talented idols of the '80s were, however, a different case: For example, listening to Cadillac Concepcion sing "Come What May" or "Kiss Kamote" with Sharon Cuneta must, to say the least, exist on pleasant experience.

Spring of hits

These days, the likes of Dingdong Dantes, Sam Milby, Gerald Anderson, Mark Herras, and even Jericho Rosales (via his band, Asian) have albums in the market—each varying degrees of success in terms of quality and record sales. Pinoy and Sam, in fact, have a string of hits to their name.

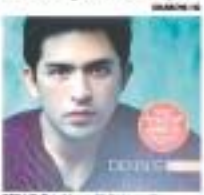
Admirably, we weren't thrilled at the prospect of another movie heartthrob using his popularity to "impose" his (more often than not) less than-sterling singing ability on unsuspecting fans. Happily, however, with the release of Dennis Trillo's surprisingly scrumptious, self-titled debut album, the exact one idol makes a propitious entry into the world of recording.

While Trillo doesn't really possess sparkling vocal quality, it's nevertheless evident that he knows how to use his pleasant-sounding high voice. He puts his versatility to good use. In his 12-track recording, he rushes up with a radio-friendly lineup you wouldn't mind listening to again and again. And his almost virtuoso-like vocal leads in—readily) to his songs.

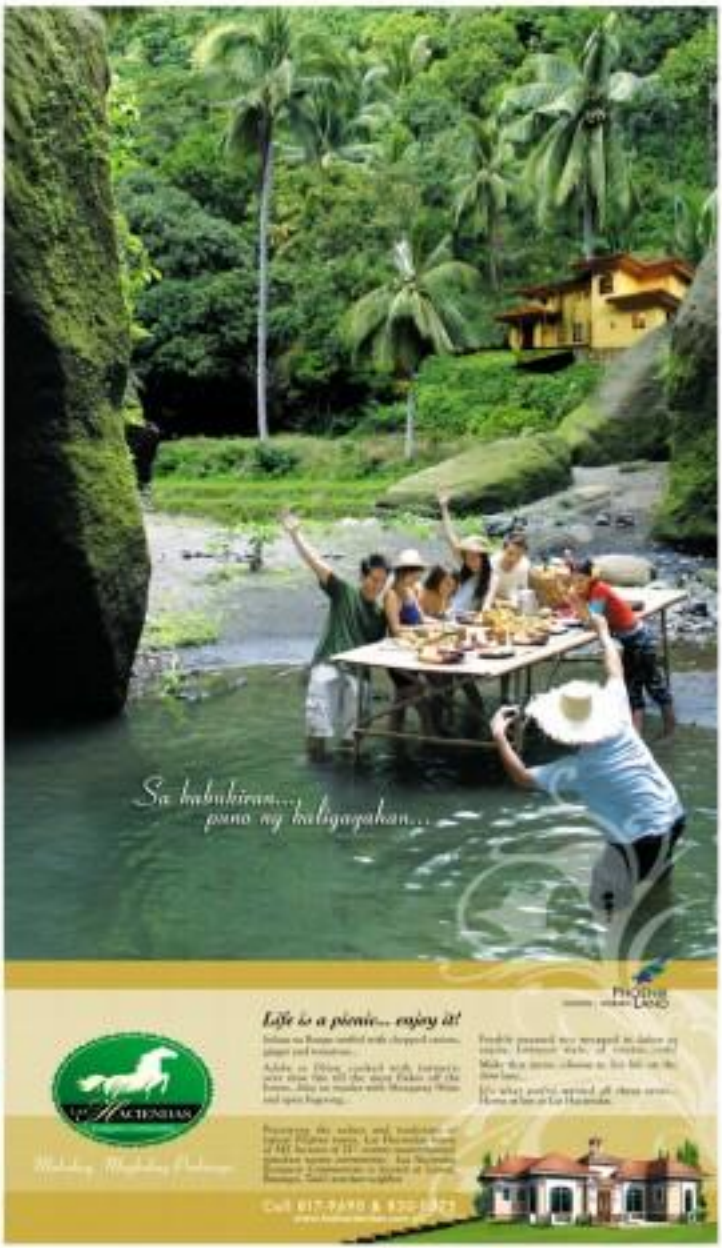
Confidence

In the pop-rock number, "Lumilipad" and "Mangarap Lang," his ability to climb from low to high notes with ease demonstrates his confidence as a singer. His close submissive over

(SEE ALSO P. H8)



TRILLO. Puts his sensibility to good use.



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4 MISS POTTER
5 THE REAPING
6 SUNSHINE
7 PREDICTION
8 Indefinite: WANG YAN
9 NORBIT
ROCKY BALBOA
10 THE CHANTING

sneak previews
Galleria
Ermita
Metro East
Pioneer
APRIL 16 and 17

ERMITA

1 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
2 PREDICTION
3 THE REAPING
4 300
THE CHANTING
6 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
8 SUNSHINE
7 MISS POTTER

METRO EAST

1 MISS POTTER
2 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
3 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
4 THE REAPING
5 THE CHANTING
PREDICTION
6 300
7 SUNSHINE
9 NORBIT

NOVALICHES

1 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
2 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
3 SUNSHINE
4 300
5 THE CHANTING
6 THE REAPING

PIONEER

1 THE REAPING
2 MISS POTTER
3 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
4 SUNSHINE

STA. ROSA

1 TURISTAS
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
4 NORBIT
5 AMO CUTE ng INA MO

LIPA

1 300
2 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
3 HAPPILY NEVER AFTER
4 TURISTAS
5 DREAMGIRLS

DASMARIÑAS

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ROCKY BALBOA
3 ZOMBIES
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 AMO CUTE ng INA MO

ANGELES

1 SUNSHINE
2 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
3 HAPPILY NEVER AFTER
4 THE REAPING

IMUS

1 300
2 SUNSHINE
3 ASK THE DUST
4 THE REAPING
5 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
6 HAPPILY NEVER AFTER

STARMILLS

1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 PREMONITION
3 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
4 THE REAPING
5 DREAMGIRLS
6 SUNSHINE

BACOLOD

1 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
2 RESERVE
3 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 DREAMGIRLS
6 ZOMBIES

ILOILO

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 AMO CUTE ng INA MO
3 PREMONITION
4 ZOMBIES
5 DEAD PEOPLE 2
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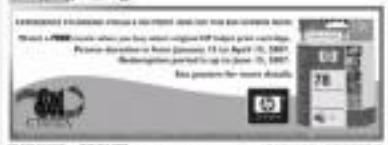

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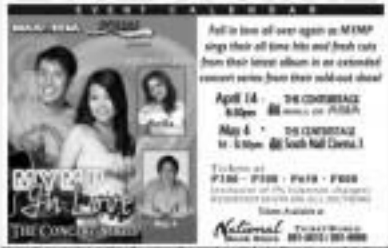

Sharon

Previous page A4

silter movie mastermind singers in his superstar's obvious commercial appeal, with no little help from executive producer Regine Velasquez, who sings a beautiful, Ogie Alcasid-composed duet ("Magsayaw Ng Mula") with him. the other one, "Sinasabi," has a pluperfect quality.

Iydie's daughter's lead cover of "Be My Happy by Me," "All Out of Love," is earnestly enjoying assessment-worthy on-lead radio airplay. But, he does an even better job in his bossa-y remake of "Love Is All That Matters" and in Gamaliel Quesada's "Tanging," which he sings with touching subtlety.

Moreover, he shines in the darkly produced but muted, softly exceptional "Bigla ng Hangin" and the upbeat track, "Tanga." He even shows off his face in pop-jazz in Mendiola "Bicol Is Ya."

Quest

If Dennis Trillo has the Songbird's backing in the quest for recording success, Gina Pareño, the great voice behind such '80s hits as "Dapat Ba Ang" "Let Me Love Again" and "U Believe in Yes," has the support of no less than Sharon Cuneta. The Megastar is the executive producer of "Hands of Time," Pareño's auspicious return to the music scene.

For sure, Pareño's voice is nothing to scoff at—and it is crisp is on full display in the 11-song collection, made up of 10 OPM singles and one cover ("Nocha By Only Now").

More appropriately, the album's richness and opinionated fully reflect the honed quality and number of Gina's vocal experience.

Happily, the lad. Indeed's voice hasn't changed a bit. Even when some of his songs' melodies and sentiments tend to be repetitive, he manages to make each track distinct from the next. In the heartwarming current single, "Keeping the Memories Alive" to the inspirational "Find That Child Hiding in You," his duet with cousin Jia Pareño.

Tribute

"Sakal Mate," one of the lineup's more radio-friendly bites, showcases Gina's powerful duet tones, but it's in the songs, "Hands of Time" and "Let This One Go," that he's able to demonstrate his ability to shift beautifully from natural voice to falsetto. It's also pure tribute to Sharon's fearless and generosity to "Angel of Linguine."

The album's lowest, "Same same"—a rousing paean to friendship—is also its most upbeat. It resonates Gina with honey buddies, Ramon Ray muscle and Pareño Magalona, who provides the hip-hop twist to the song. The trio successfully combines their distinctly different styles that coalesce into one cohesive sound.

Tarantino takes another crack at horror

LOS ANGELES—QUENTIN TARANTINO has always been a huge fan of B movies. ...Our pure layer of popular culture dominated by zombies, psychotic killers, violent car chases, and bucket of gore.

Four years after the colorful writer-director produced paid homage to the martial-arts movie with his spaghetti-western-meets-eastern-swordie-fusty Kill Bill," he's back with "Grindhouse."

Faire Island

It's a double-feature exploitation movie, complete with fake trailers, that he conjured up with R movie-loving pal, Robert Rodriguez, with enough fake blood, state-of-the-art visual effects, and scantily-clad women to keep every teenage boy happy.

In a recent interview, Tarantino talked about making a B film, and how he and Rodriguez were able to persuade an A-list cast that includes Bruce Willis, Nicolas Cage, Kurt Russell and Rosario Dawson to join in the mayhem.

What's it hard getting stars like Bruce Willis and Nicolas Cage to be in a B movie?

TARANTINO: Huge fan of B movies.

"To be honest, it was a big surprise to me! I didn't know that Bruce was in Robert's movie until I was on the set—and I was like, 'What's he doing here?' And then, I saw his green lenses and scrap-lapers, and it hit me—he's not just starring the set, he's in our movie! And another of us realized that Nicolas was in Rob Zombie's Halloween until we read about it. But, obviously they wanted to be in it—and they're great."

You collaborated with Robert Rodriguez in 'Sin City' But, this time, each of you shot separate movies. Isn't there a sense of competition between you?

"With anyone else, that would be the case, but it doesn't happen with us. Our films are ridiculously complementary, and I think people want to see a Robert Rodriguez movie that's more high-paced.

Dialogue

"And people eager to see a director's movie want to hear my dialogue and see me slow down a bit to build up for the big moments."

Kurt Russell seems to be perfectly cast as Stuntman Mike. He looks like he's having a blast. Was he your first choice?

"He wasn't. I had another actor in mind initially, but things didn't work out. That can be a good thing.

"When you suddenly change track, the movie can be anything. It's very freeing, and once I thought of Kurt, it was, 'That's it! If he is opposite of the characters, the role is for!'"

Reuters

From page 1-C

Real newsmakers in the biz

Batangas to Malacañang Palace—when a stunning upward trajectory for Filmut (call her "V" for endless Victory)

Heather Mills

Only a few months ago, many people loathed her for leaving celebrity hubby Paul McCartney and asking for a huge alimony in the tune of millions of dollars.

Then, Heather went to the Statesto compete on "Dancing with the Stars," and the public's loathing quickly turned to love.

That's because Heather is an exquisite, yet she's dancing up a storm with impressive dance moves.

All by herself. Heather has transformed the world's view of amputees' prospects, and informed many people about the great advances that have been made in prosthetic limbs. In the process, she's also helped kick up the shanty viewership by an extra 11 million people, so it's a win-win situation all around!

Angel Locsin

In the "Pin and Win, many Filipino movie stars produced their own films, the better to choose the best projects to boost their stellar careers. These days, however, most stars are inactive on the film scene, and the few who remain active don't like to be bothered with producers' many headaches.

That's why it's heartening to hear that young star Angel Locsin has revived the star producer practice by producing her first movie. We hope it does well at the tills, so that more stars will be encouraged to go into producing movies themselves.

In the past, star-produced films were sometimes better than studio productions because they had a more personal flavor to them.

Some stars who had learned to love the movies took greater care with the films they produced. It would be good if that "hands-on, hearts-on" approach could enhance local movies again!

SNEAK PREVIEWS

APRIL 16 & 17

Robinsons Movieworld
- galleria
- ermita
- metro east
- pioneer

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FEDERALAND

Real newsmakers in the biz

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT SETS AS SHOW BIZ news it does parts? On newsstands and entertainment-oriented talk shows, it contains majority of "hot" items like "Starlet is almost kicked by horse while shooting a commercial," "Star A is thinking of counting Star B," "Starlet graduates from high school," "Show columnist wears miniskirt to night," "Star C shoots in new image shedding his underwear line," "Singer to go on performance tour of the States," "Starlet buys wonderful item in Ilocos," "Star buys many bikini with each other," and "Another scandal! Sino kaya'ng mare-rebound sa mga?"

But really all that exciting, right? Much of so-called show biz "news" these days is made up of shameless plugs for new products and products that don't really deserve our attention. Or many little trends and controversies that are mutually shielding, but soon become boring, because they're so truly predictable.

We, even television's, is a small, teeny show biz desirous lack creativity and originality.

Even more disappointingly, the real show biz news is largely not being reported at all, as fans fail to appreciate what really makes the entertainment world go round.

SANTOS. Real-life political melodrama.

LOCSIN. Will produce her own film.

To help make up for the slack, here are some of the real newsmakers in the biz this month:

Vilma Santos

The drama queen was recently involved in a real-life political melodrama involving the post of governor of Batangas, which she initially fought over with her brother-in-law. After many years, mastered familial relationships and bruised egos, Vilma finally won the Boots Sandy's seat.

This is a major political victory that has tension characters producing that, not only will Vilma win in the gubernatorial elections, but—if the dove said in the past...she could be a contender for president in 2010!

From the movies to Lipa to [illegible]

MILLS (WITH DANCE PARTNER, JONATHAN ROBERTS). His transformed the world's stars of suspenses' prospects.

Is your child Gifted?